



***I Heard* by Jaha Nailah Avery**

Illustrated by Steffi Walthall

Imprint, Publisher, Publication Year

ISBN: 9781623543822 Hardcover

*Age Range: 5 to 8

BOOK SYNOPSIS

A powerful and poetic picture book about Black history in the United States, from the shores of Africa and slavery, to the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter movements.

With stunning lyricism reminiscent of traditional African spirituals and today's rhythm and flow of hip-hop, a teacher shares the history of being Black in the United States, while continuing to march into present day—undeterred and proud to be Black. Author Jaha Nailah Avery shows you have to understand the past to shape the future, and knowing who you are gives you the strength to do just that.

The book's back matter about Black history is an extensive resource and provides additional context to the reading of *I Heard*.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

“This sweeping, powerful rhymed historical panorama is delivered, in Walthall’s mix of colored and monochrome scenes . . . declaimed to an audience of modern, young mural painters, beginning in an idealized Africa . . .” —*Booklist*

“The result is an accessible work that offers readers much to reflect upon while presenting aspects of African American history and culture that may be new to young readers—and that may prompt further research.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“This book is meant to be read aloud and is a fantastic independent read for elementary students.” —*Children’s Literature*

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [New Children's Books for Black History Month 2024 | Babies to Bookworms | Blog](#)
- [Must-Read Children’s Books To Celebrate Juneteenth | Brightly](#)

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trademarketing@charlesbridge.com

- [I Heard by Jaha Nailah Avery | The Southern Bookseller Review](#)
- [Review of I Heard | The Bookshelf Corner](#)
- [Charlesbridge Shelf Care: I Heard | YouTube](#)

***A NOTE ON AGE RANGES**

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.