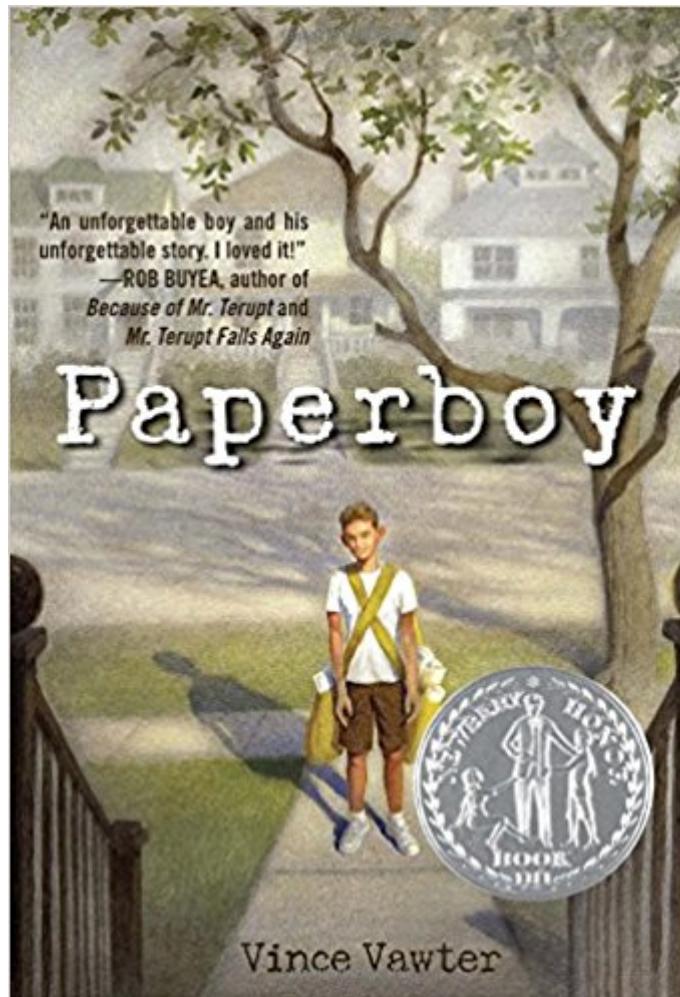


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# Paperboy



## Synopsis

"Reminiscent of *To Kill a Mockingbird*." •Booklist, Starred "An unforgettable boy and his unforgettable story. I loved it!" •ROB BUYEA, author of *Because of Mr. Terupt* and *Mr. Terupt Falls Again* This Newbery Honor winner is perfect for fans of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The King*'s Speech, and *The Help*. A boy who stutters comes of age in the segregated South, during the summer that changes his life. Little Man throws the meanest fastball in town. But talking is a whole different ball game. He can barely say a word without stuttering—not even his own name. So when he takes over his best friend's paper route for the month of July, he's not exactly looking forward to interacting with the customers. But it's the neighborhood junkman, a bully and thief, who stirs up real trouble in Little Man's life. A Newbery Honor Award Winner An ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Book An IRA Children's and Young Adults' Choice An IRA Teachers' Choice A Bank Street College of Education Best Book of the Year A National Parenting Publications Award Honor Book A BookPage Best Children's Book An ABC New Voices Pick A Junior Library Guild Selection An ALA-ALSC Notable Children's Recording An ALA-YALSA Amazing Audiobook A Mississippi Magnolia State Award List Selection [Vawter's] characterization of Little Man feels deeply authentic, with . . . his fierce desire to be "somebody instead of just a kid who couldn't talk right." •The Washington Post "Paperboy offers a penetrating look at both the mystery and the daily frustrations of stuttering. People of all ages will appreciate this positive and universal story." •Jane Fraser, president of the Stuttering Foundation of America "[A] tense, memorable story." •Publishers Weekly, Starred "An engaging and heartfelt presentation that never whitewashes the difficult time and situation as Little Man comes of age." •Kirkus Reviews "Vawter portrays a protagonist so true to a disability that one cannot help but empathize with the difficult world of a stutterer." •School Library Journal

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 940L (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Yearling; Reprint edition (December 23, 2014)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 260 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #9,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #58 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents #95 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Self-Esteem & Self-Respect

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

An Best Book of the Month, May 2013: Words don't come easy for an 11-year-old boy coming of age in the segregated South of Vince Vawter's moving novel, *Paperboy*.

Spending the summer tending his best friend's paper route leads to new discoveries, friendships, and danger as the lives behind the closed doors of neighbors, now his customers, are exposed for the first time. For a boy with an impossible stutter, this poses a whole new set of challenges to let his thoughts and feelings free. *Paperboy* is an impressive look at hope and bravery in the face of adversity and the fierce protection of love. --Seira Wilson --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Gr 6-9-After an overthrown baseball busts his best friend's lip, 11-year-old Victor Vollmer takes over the boy's paper route. This is a particularly daunting task for the able-armed Victor, as he has a prominent stutter that embarrasses him and causes him to generally withdraw from the world. Through the paper route he meets a number of people, gains a much-needed sense of self and community, and has a life-threatening showdown with a local cart man. The story follows the boy's 1959 Memphis summer with a slow but satisfying pace that builds to a storm of violence. The first-person narrative is told in small, powerful block paragraphs without commas, which the stuttering narrator loathes. Vawter portrays a protagonist so true to a disability that one cannot help but empathize with the difficult world of a stutterer. Yet, Victor's story has much broader appeal as the boy begins to mature and redefine his relationship with his parents, think about his aspirations for the future, and explore his budding spirituality. The deliberate pacing and unique narration make *Paperboy* a memorable coming-of-age novel.-Devin Burritt, Wells Public Library, ME (c)

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Very Good. Sweet. Good character descriptions. Simple but meaningful plot. Heart warmer. Felt as though I was in the south with the humidity and heat of the summer. Good social values that were written about such as understanding of disabilities, acceptance of racial and economic situations of the age, and respect and love for fellow persons.

While I couldn't get my son to finish this book with me, I think had he stuck with it, he would have loved it. 1959, a boy who stutters but learns to overcome it's power over him among other big life lessons all while doing a paper route one summer in Memphis. This book packs a lot into a small package. Written as if by a twelve year old boy. A great one for students in ~grades 5-7.

An incredible book written by an incredible author! Vince Vawter's semiautobiographical work of historical fiction details the events that occurred during a month when he was eleven years old. Living in Memphis, TN in 1959, that includes racial tension issues as well as other events common during that time period (smoking, etc). Mr. Vawter initially wrote the book for a general audience but it was then reworked slightly to be marketed to a young adult audience. I read this book aloud with and to 100 sixth graders during the last month of this school year. They were mesmerized. If you've ever spent any time with sixth graders during the last month of a school year, you will immediately recognize that holding their attention for any length of time is almost impossible - let alone doing it for an hour a day for 2 weeks. After showing them a video clip where Mr. Vawter reads the first several pages, we took turns reading it ourselves. They could appreciate the fact that he writes of his stutter and the difficulties that came with that with such honesty and openness. His character portrayal and development completely engaged them. Yes, the female neighbor with the drinking problem and abusive relationship did make them uncomfortable - as it should have. Children this age come into contact with many people day in and day out and it is a valuable tool for them to read about situations that they can identify as unhealthy and then express their feelings about them. Like our hero in the book, they were completely in love with Mam. Victor, being the same age as my students, was as real to them as the guys they eat lunch with or play with at recess. I would encourage everyone to read this book. It is rare to have such an honest novel be approachable by young and old alike. I thank Mr. Vawter for his wonderful debut novel and the enriching experience it provided to my 100 students.

I'm typing about the stabbing for a good reason. I can't talk. Without stuttering. I was hooked. I'm a retired speech therapist who spent many frustrating years working with stutterers. This is one of the best books I have read about a stutterer. Paperboy has humor, empathy, insight, and simplicity as Mr Vawter tells his story so cleverly that you can't put it down. The kind of book I've been waiting for all year for many years! It is my favorite book of the year, and I can't wait to start presenting it to 5th and 6th graders in my current job as a storyreader. The book is filled with language that is skillfully crafted, (thank you Mr. Spiro), and presented in such a beautiful way that it begs to be read aloud! Please give us more Mr. Vawter---you are a gem!

This book was excellent and inspirational without being didactic. It begins in a gentle manner and the plot seems a bit meandering at first, but several threads converge beautifully, skilfully and organically by the novel's end. It's very much a character-driven book with strong and distinct voices, clever insight, and heartwarming relationships. It's also edgy at times and doesn't shy away from some difficult moments. Overall, it's a beautiful coming of age book - one that I found a little reminiscent of To Kill a Mockingbird - and it leaves the reader with much to think about.

I got this for my teenage son who also stutters. It was recommended by his English teacher. He said he really enjoyed the story. I won't go into detail, as I did not read this, but my son kept the book instead of donating it when he was done. For my son, that says a lot.

I'm not a fan of YA novels. So, although I had quibbles, I found the book more engrossing than YA books I've read with my kids before. My discomfort with the story related to the way the high-drama plot was superficial, didn't make much sense and felt like a mere devise to write a really excellent story about a boy who stutters. His seeing a glimpse of another reality through the plot involving his nanny, was good. It just could have been better developed and thought through...of course, I'm not really a YA reader, so perhaps this is as much as the children can handle. It also struck me that, when southerners write about their privilege in Jim Crow south, it's always everyone else who was racist. Maybe it was true for this writer, and he did do a good job of showing the child taking his privilege entirely for granted. So, I won't delve too deeply here, other than to mention it. In all, the paperboy was an excellent character and the book provides a great message about resilience and acceptance of our differences that I'm glad my kids received.

Loved this book. I have a son who stutters and was happy to find an honest, well written book about another boy who struggles with this. My 10 year old son greatly appreciated it too. Although he's an independent reader, he asked me to read most of this book to him and it allowed us some opportunity to talk about stuttering. It dealt beautifully with racism as well. It has beautiful messages.

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