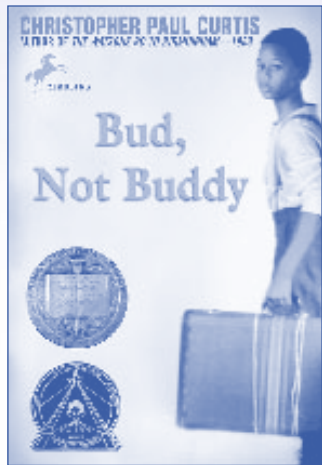


YEARLING

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLASSICS

CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS



Bud, Not Buddy

Ask students to research the causes of the Great Depression. How did it affect families of all socioeconomic levels? Tell them that Bud, the main character in the novel, is homeless and goes to a mission for a hot meal. Find out other types of organizations that helped people during the Great Depression.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY

D
E
C
E
M
B
E
R

"To me the highest accolade comes when a young reader tells me, 'I really liked your book.' The young seem to be able to say 'really' with a clarity, a faith, and an honesty that we as adults have long forgotten. That is why I write."—Christopher Paul Curtis

AUTHOR FUN FACTS

Born

In Flint, Michigan

Currently Lives

In Canada

Hobbies

Playing basketball,
collecting old record albums,
and writing!

Favorite . . .

. . . Books: anything by
Toni Morrison,
Kurt Vonnegut, or
Zora Neale Hurston

AUTHOR STUDY ACTIVITY

Christopher Paul Curtis lived in Flint, Michigan, where a lot of his characters live too. Ask students to identify any characters or any plots that may have come from real-life experiences Curtis had growing up in Flint.

YEARLING

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CLASSICS

Yearling Author Study

CHRISTOPHER PAUL CURTIS

Born in Flint, Michigan, Christopher Paul Curtis spent his first 13 years after high school on the assembly line of Flint's historic Fisher Body Plant #1. His job entailed hanging car doors, and it left him with an aversion to getting into and out of large automobiles—particularly big Buicks.

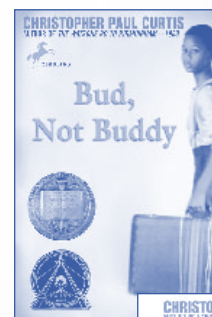
Curtis's writing—and his dedication to it—has been greatly influenced by his family members, particularly his wife, Kaysandra. With grandfathers like Earl "Lefty" Lewis, a Negro Baseball League pitcher, and 1930s bandleader Herman E. Curtis, Sr., of Herman Curtis and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression, it is easy to see why Christopher Paul Curtis was destined to become an entertainer.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963 tells the story of 10-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan, and their unforgettable journey that leads them into one of the darkest moments in American history. It is by turns a hilarious, touching, and tragic story about civil rights and the impact of violence on one family.

For more information on Christopher Paul Curtis, visit www.randomhouse.com/features/christopherpaulcurtis



Photo Credit: © James Keysler



DELVE INTO THE BOOKS!

In both *Bud, Not Buddy* and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, Curtis intertwines tidbits of history into the stories. Have students pick their favorite historical note and do some research. Have them share their findings with the class.

Bud, Not Buddy

0-440-41328-1

The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963

0-440-41412-1