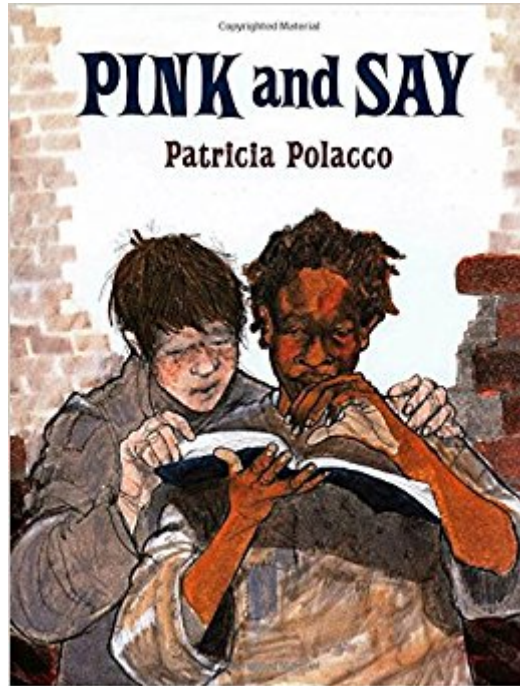




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# Pink And Say



## Synopsis

When Sheldon Russell Curtis told this story to his daughter, Rosa, she kept every word in her heart and was to retell it many times. "I will tell it in Sheldon's own words as nearly as I can. He was wounded in a fierce battle and left for dead in a pasture somewhere in Georgia when Pinkus found him. Pinkus' skin was the color of polished mahogany, and he was flying Union colors like the wounded boy, and he picked him up out of the field and brought him to where the black soldier's mother, Moe Moe Bay, lived. She had soft, gentle hands and cared for him and her Pink. But the two boys were putting her in danger, two Union soldiers in Confederate territory! They had to get back to their outfits. Scared and uncertain, the boys were faced with a hard decision, and then marauding Confederate troops rode in. In this Civil War story passed from great-grandfather to grandmother, to son, and finally to the author-artist herself, Patricia Polacco once again celebrates the shared humanity of the peoples of this world.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.4 x 11.2 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 113 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #17,007 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #27 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars #48 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Grade 4 Up-This picture book set during the Civil War is a departure for Polacco in terms of content and audience. It is certainly the deepest and most serious book she has done. Sheldon Curtis, 15, a white boy, lies badly wounded in a field in Georgia when Pinkus Aylee, an African American Union

soldier about Sheldon's age, finds him and carries him home to his mother, Moe Moe Bay. Sheldon, known as Say, is nursed back to health in her nurturing care. But then she is killed by marauders, and the boys return to their units. They are then captured and taken to Andersonville, where Pink is hanged within hours of their capture. One of the most touching moments is when Pink reads aloud from the Bible to Moe Moe and Say. Say tells them that he can't read, but then he offers something he's very proud of: he once shook Abraham Lincoln's hand. This is a central image in the story, and is what ties the boys together for a final time, as Pink cries, "'Let me touch the hand that touched Mr. Lincoln, Say, just one last time.'" The picture of their clasped hands, with the hands of the soldiers wrenching them apart, is exceptionally moving. Polacco's artwork, in fact, has never been better. She uses dramatic perspectives, dynamic compositions, and faces full of emotion to carry her powerful tale. History comes to life in this remarkable book. Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Ages 5-9. Hands and gestures have always been important in Polacco's work. Here they are at the center of a picture book based on a true incident in the author's own family history. It's a story of interracial friendship during the Civil War between two 15-year-old Union soldiers. Say, who is white and poor, tells how he is rescued by Pinkus (Pink), who carries the wounded Say back to the Georgia home where Pink's black family were slaves. In a kind of idyllic interlude, Pink and his mother nurse Say back to health, and Pink teaches his friend to read; but before they can leave, marauders kill Pink's mother and drag the boys to Andersonville prison. Pink is hanged, but Say survives to tell the story and pass it on across generations. The figure of Pink's mother borders on the sentimental, but the boys' relationship is beautifully drawn. Throughout the story there are heartbreaking images of people torn from a loving embrace. Pictures on the title and copyright pages show the parallel partings as each boy leaves his family to go to war. At the end, when the friends are wrenched apart in prison, the widening space between their outstretched hands expresses all the sorrow of the war. Then, in a powerful double-page spread, they are able to clasp hands for a moment, and their union is like a rope. Say once shook Lincoln's hand, just as Say held Pink's hand, and Say tells his children, who tell theirs, that they have touched the hand that touched the hand . . . Hazel Rochman

I love anything by Patricia Polacco. I bought this to read to my granddaughter when taking a trip to Gettysburg. I use it in my classroom all the time! Students love it! Highly recommend it! I especially like that this story is actually about Polacco's great grandfather. Most of her stories are based on

something in her own life. Love, love, love her stories!

This is a tough book. I questioned whether I should get it for my 9 year-old due to the death in the story. But then I thought that keeping it from her for that reason was a bad reason. She loves Patricia Polacco's books and this one is one of her favorites.

Wow! This book was very powerful. It is about a young black Union soldier who saves a young white Union soldier. They become like family during his recuperation and then they end up going through something very traumatic. Very powerful book! I will always remember Punkus Aylee.

I love this story: it turned out to be a multi-night bedtime story as it was a bit lengthy for my 6 year old audience of 1.

I read this book to my boys when they were children. Now they are 23 and 20 years old and still remember fondly this sad but true story. I've always liked Patricia Polacco's books because they are warm, loving, and inspiring stories of her childhood and/or past down stories from her ancestors. Pink and Say will break your heart but at the same time will teach you how life for children during the Civil War was, issues that I never read about in school. I have read this story to my ESL students in middle school and high school. They all loved it and many of us cried at the end.

Pink and Say is one of my all-time favorite picture books for mature picture book readers. Patricia Polacco captures the setting and feelings of the Civil War with two young characters who were real. I cannot read this book aloud without tearing up at the surprise ending. History lovers are in for a treat with this treatment of a Civil War tale.

Have read this book 100 times. My grandkids always choose it. Touching story and illustrations are awesome. I have given it as a gift often. Probably my favorite picture book. Grandma Cheryl

a great book on an incident during the Civil War, very appropriate for young children. It is well-written and the story draws on the real life experience of one of author Patricia Polacco's ancestors. She is a very good author who writes about real events, situations, and does so with authenticity and real emotion. Children really connect with her stories and gain strength and understanding from them.

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