



Discovering Wes Moore (The Young Adult Adaptation)

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For fans of *The Wire* and *Unbroken* comes a story of two fatherless boys from Baltimore, both named Wes Moore. One is in prison, serving a life sentence for murder. The other is a Rhodes Scholar, an army veteran, and an author whose book is being turned into a movie produced by Oprah Winfrey.

Two men. One overcame adversity. The other suffered the indignities of poverty. Their stories are chronicled in *Discovering Wes Moore*, a book for young people based on Wes Moore's bestselling adult memoir, *The Other Wes Moore*.

The story of "the other Wes Moore" is one that the author couldn't get out of his mind, not since he learned that another boy with his name—just two years his senior—grew up in the same Baltimore neighborhood. He wrote that boy—now a man—a letter, not expecting to receive a reply. But a reply came, and a friendship grew, as letters turned into visits and the two men got to know each other. Eventually, that friendship became the inspiration for *Discovering Wes Moore*, a moving and cautionary tale examining the factors that contribute to success and failure—and the choices that make all the difference.

Includes an 8-page photo insert.

Discovering Wes Moore (The Young Adult Adaptation) Details

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Author : Wes Moore

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Beth Honeycutt says

I think I'd like to read the adult version sometime, but this version is very accessible for students and would be a good, quick read.

Jordan Dozier says

This is the young adult version of the book *The Other Wes Moore*. I wonder if the original version did more with the premise than this version does. The premise of this book was more promising than the read itself, which broke the story down to the basics to have a message with a capital M. I wanted to see a more artful and moving exploration of the idea of identity than this book provides. That being said, it does show the humanity of a convicted killer in a nuanced way.

Lisa says

Wes is a stellar story teller who shares the lessons of his life and those of others in a compelling and thought-proving narrative.

Rheetha Lawlor says

I really enjoyed this book, but I think I would enjoy the adult version better. That's why I only gave it three stars. However, with that said, I know that I would be utterly thrilled to have Wes Moore come to our school. I think that he has an amazing story and can/has/will touch many young adult lives who think that there is only one way to deal with a hard life.

Jacob says

The book *Wes Moore* is about how two similar boys who grow up in the same environment have two extremely different futures. and about the decisions they make that get them there. The characters in this book are the two Wes Moores. The plot is following them as they grow up. The setting is in the low-income part of the city. The objective is to teach young reads to make good life decisions.

I would recommend this non-fiction book by Wes Moore because it shows you how easily you can turn your life around. One thing I liked about this book is that it had two people it followed one who ended up in jail and another in college. What I didn't like about this book was how on Wes didn't have a very big part in the story. This book was pretty easy to read but had some deep meaning.

Calvin Pawlak says

This book is about the author Wes Moore and his life story. It talks about how he moves throughout his life and how he has made many mistakes. It is a very detailed book when it comes to people getting murdered and people selling drugs. This book shows the harsh reality of our world in the past and in the present day. I personally loved this book. It was so interesting and I could not stop reading it. I read the entire book in 34 minutes and loved every part of it. It was a little confusing people wise and how there were so many but it eventually all went together.

Eliza Witt says

This memoir is about a boy named Wes Moore. Wes Moore's father dies when Wes was at a young age right in front of Wes. It is tragic experience for Wes. Wes's mother is having a hard time adjusting without a husband, so she decides to move in with her mother and father in the Bronx. There is a lot of roughness in the neighborhood, and it has a bad influence on Wes. He turns from a nice boy to a boy who makes bad choices. His mother decides to send him off to military school. By the time Wes is done with military school he is a new man, a smart, wise man. One day Wes finds out about a man with the same exact name! What do they have in common? Read the book to find out!

I enjoyed this book because I thought it was interesting. One reason I thought it was interesting is how there are two boys with the same name. That is crazy! That is probably about 1-10 chance. Another reason is that it is just heartbreaking that he had to go through all those bumps in the road. His mother decided that he was not meant to make bad choices, so she decided to send him to military camp. And that changes his whole life. He decided that he didn't want to make bad choices in his life too, and I think that is a VERY hard, and courageous of him.

A reader who would enjoy this book is a reader who likes depressing stories, and also a mature reader. You need to be a mature reader to this book because it has a lot of violence. And you need to like depressing stories because this is a sad story, and you probably won't enjoy it if you like a happy and cheerful book this is not the one you are looking for. In conclusion I LOVED this book.

Melanie says

I first became familiar with The Other Wes Moore, and though I remained interested in reading that book, I came to this one first, as it has been selected as a summer read for students I will be teaching at my new school assignment.

The premise of both Wes Moore texts - his original and this young adult adaptation - is that there were (at least) two Wes Moore living in Baltimore. The author eventually graduated from Johns Hopkins University, earned a Rhodes Scholarship, got married, and earned all of the traditional measures of success. The other Wes Moore ended up in jail, where he is serving a life sentence for murder. In this adaptation, Moore wrestles with how and what caused their paths to diverge, when in so many respects, there were a number of similarities in terms of how and where they were raised.

I thoroughly enjoyed Wes Moore's take on the thin, tenuous line that sometimes separates our fate from someone else's, and I appreciate that he asks and doesn't necessarily reconcile some tough questions about how our choices, our environments, and our expectations shape those destinies.

While I thoroughly enjoyed this book, written with so much heart, there were two things that frittered away at me:

1) I felt that very little time (only the last few chapters) focused on the other Wes Moore, so he ended up feeling like an afterthought, when the original text was called *The Other Wes Moore*. Perhaps because of the shift in audience, there were modifications in purpose and thus the editing cut out some of his story? I guess I'd need to read the other one to make that determination.

2) I felt that the transition between his initial days at Valley Forge to being a successful cadet felt abrupt, like we did not really get to clearly see that evolution, which I doubt happened overnight. Again, this may have been an issue of cutting/editing, given the difference in audience, but I wanted to see more of that growth in development, as it clearly did play a role in Wes' maturation.

What I did love was that Wes acknowledged the impact of the support he received, and toward the end, I found great value in his disagreement with the other Wes Moore, who said he believed that others' expectations of/for him shaped his future. Author Wes Moore said that he felt this statement served as an evasion of responsibility, and that gave me food for thought, and ultimately, I appreciated what he had to say about taking accountability for yourself and your decisions.

Sarah Eshelman says

The core story of Wes Moore's book is a fascinating examination of how our choices are shaped by ourselves and by our surroundings. I picked up this audio CD more because I was looking for a quick audio book for my commute this week; I also remember hearing of this story before.

I really liked this adaptation, and was pleasantly surprised by how good the author is at imitating accents. However, I did not realize until about a quarter of the way through that this was an adaptation of his original book. It is clear to me that this was a more compelling story abridged for young adult readers. There is more to both his story and the other Wes Moore's story that I want to hear but was cut to make the text more accessible.

I'm all for making texts accessible for readers, and I definitely pondered how I could integrate this into my curriculum. But I am left wanting more, and wanting to read the original, hence the three stars.

Heidi Branch says

This book is a memoir of one man then contrasted with the life of another man by the same name and from the same city (Baltimore). This is the abbreviated YA version -- only 150 pages. Great concept but I didn't like the execution. Basically he quickly describes key moments in his own life, leaving huge gaps. Then he spends one chapter summing up the other Wes Moore's life. The final chapter is him drawing what

conclusions he can about life choices. He addresses this to young adults, and it could feel a little preachy to some. Some kids need to be hit over the head with the moral, but others would rather draw their own conclusions.

I intend to pull out some passages for my classes next year for writing prompts and class discussion. The book does raise thought-provoking questions about how our choices and environments affect our ultimate outcome.

I would like to read the original book *The Other Wes Moore* as it appears to alternate between the two men's stories and go more in depth.

KK Feuerman says

Discovering *Wes Moore* by Wes Moore is both an autobiography and a biography. This book focuses on the stories of the author Wes Moore and his new found friend Wes Moore. Although they are two completely different people who share a name and a neighborhood, their stories are not all that different. These men both grew up in the same environment, they were surrounded by drugs, violence, and gangs, yet their lives didn't turn out that different. Both men faced challenges as children, these challenges helped shape them into the men they have become. The author was an African American man who grew up in Baltimore and New York. As a kid he found himself getting in trouble for missing class and getting bad grades. He was the kind of kid you would be intimidated by, he went to one of the richer schools in his town, but he the poorest one there. In his school he tried to act rich when he wasn't, and on the streets he tried to act mean when he wasn't. He was arrested at the age of 11 for spray painting his name on a wall. His mother did not know what to do, she did the best thing for her son and shipped him off to military school. At first Wes Moore's troublesome behavior followed him as he continued to make attempts to escape. Over time he realized he wasn't going anywhere, he was stuck here. He began making the most of his time and soon began to be a leader. The other Wes Moore also grew up in Baltimore. He was a tall and athletic kid, who often found himself in trouble with the law. When he was younger he was always a good kid. As he started getting older Wes found himself in more and more trouble. He began working with drug dealers and soon was a dealer himself. By 1996 he was already a father of four. Soon Wes found himself getting in more and more trouble, this led to more and more arrests. Soon he was caught and his brother was found guilty of murdering a cop, and as a result he was sentenced to life in prison.

This book was enjoyable because it told a story. This book was interesting because, this book was not like other nonfiction books, this book didn't just list what important things happened during his life, it actually told the story of his life. Each event that happened in his life wasn't just mentioned and then left alone, these events were described in detail and told the story behind each event. One example from this book is when the author was driving into the town where his grandparents live and where he soon would too. Instead of just saying something along the lines of how the town was gross and scary, the author said they drove through the "Burned-out landscape". By saying this it made it seem like he really wanted us to feel like we were there. This book is disliked for the same reasons. Again at times he went into very deep detail about events, but often he went into detail about the smallest of details. Instead of moving on with the story he often went on and on about it until he was blowing little things up to be larger than they are. One example of this was when he went from how Wes' story shaped his life, what our stories could offer the next generation, to how adulthood is very unexpected, to how his father's death shaped him, and finally how his own mistakes shaped him. These are all based on the same topic but it's taking something that could have been answered in a simple two paragraph response but instead it becomes a two page response. It should be quality not quantity but you do not need that much work to answer one little thing. None the less this book should be recommended to others. This book should be recommended because it is an amazing story, and it

gets you wondering about what it must have been like for them. This book cause the reader to wonder what it would be like to be in their positions and what made their situations so different. Whenever there was a story of how they went to prison or how their lives were different it caused wondering. When the author Wes Moore went into detail about how the other Wes Moore's story shaped his life and how it was different from his the wondering began, why was it different and how did it shape your life. If this book was to be recommended to someone else it should be recommend it to someone who is at least 12 years old. Although this is an amazing book it is full of violence and drug problems that are meant for a more mature audience.

Federico Brown says

it is a nice book about a guy named Wes Moore and his life story.i like how he was the youngest officer in the military. I like how he was a gifted basketball player. I didn't like how there was another Wes Moore. I liked how he was sent to a military school and it had a impact on his life.

ColeD. says

Wes's mom can not live in the house where her husband died any longer, so Wes Moore is forced to move with his mom and older sister to move to the Bronx with his grandparents. Getting acoustomed to his surroundings, Wes begins to skip school and hang out on the street, where he runs into trouble with the police. His stopped Wes from taking this path in life and sent him to a military academy, where Wes has become very successsful. Years later, Wes read a newspaper article about a man named Wes Moore who grew up fatherless on the streets of Baltimore, and was serving a life sentence in prison for murder. Encouraged to write to this man in prison, Wes sent him a letter, to his suprise the other Wes wrote him back, and so began a friendship between two men who had little in common besides their name.

This book was very well written in the sense that the reader gets to look in to both of these men's lives. The book painted a very good picture for the reader on what both Wes's went through in their childhood, and how it shaped who they are today, which always kept me interested. Wes Moore (the author) showed how two people who started at the same place will be shaped by their family and their environment. Wes said, "My people taught me that being black or relatively poor or fatherless, being from Baltimore or the Bronx, would never define the limit of me."

Wilsont says

In Discovering Wes Moore, the literary element that carries on throughout the book is the plot. After Wes' father died he moved from west Baltimore to the Bronx. Wes spends most of his young life growing up in the hood where he gets into selling drugs, skipping school, and doing graffiti. His mom sees this and sends him off to military school where he attends middle school and graduates after High school. As he gets older, he travels much more often and he hears about another man named Wes Moore who grew up in similar surroundings as himself, but ended up in prison instead.

I thought this was a good book because even though I am not similar to Wes in any way he explains his situation well and describes what it was like to grow up as a less fortunate citizen. I thought his story was great because even though he grew up poor he became a Rhodes Scholar from all of his hard work. The

author made it very clear what his goal was in writing the book as he mentioned it many times, freedom. On the last page of the book Wes says "discover what it means to be free"(147). He grew up when equality was a serious problem and he became free after he escaped the hood to lead a better life. Discovering Wes Moore has made me realize how fortunate I really am.

Mr. Suchecki says

This book follows the life of two men who share the same name. These men, named Wes Moore, have completely different lives. While one of them goes to military school, becomes a high-ranking officer in the military, and becomes a Rhodes scholar, the other Wes Moore goes on a downward spiral of bad decisions that leads him to a life-time prison sentence. Throughout the story, we see the choices that each Wes makes that helps lead them to their ultimate path.

This book is always interesting every year that I get a chance to read it. I always find myself saddened that the Wes Moore who wound up in prison couldn't find a way to make it in the world. If only his surroundings had improved, then maybe he would still be a free man. I really like the perspective this book lends in terms of how even seemingly small choices can make a large impact on a person's life. This will be a book I look forward to rereading with my students every year.
