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*Deloris Jordan , Kadir Nelson (Illustrator) , Roslyn M. Jordan*

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## **Michael Jordan.**

The mere mention of the name conjures up visions of basketball played at its absolute best. But as a child, Michael almost gave up on his hoop dreams, all because he feared he'd never grow tall enough to play the game that would one day make him famous. That's when his mother and father stepped in and shared the invaluable lesson of what really goes into the making of a champion -- patience, determination, and hard work.

Deloris Jordan, mother of the basketball phenomenon, teams up with his sister Roslyn to tell this heartwarming and inspirational story that only the members of the Jordan family could tell. It's a tale about faith and hope and how any family working together can help a child make his or her dreams come true.

## **Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream Details**

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# **From Reader Review Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream for online ebook**

## **Abby Butterfield says**

I think that the book Salt in His Shoes is a great book because it is an easy read, and has a lot of descriptive details. This story isn't written in any special kind of way, but I like the story it tells. This book is a biography of Michael Jordan. As most people know, he is a legendary all-star basketball player. Almost everyone adores him. But most people don't know his back story, or part of how he became who he is today. In this book, it will tell you about an important moments in his childhood.

Something i found interesting about this book was that the author shared something about michael's past that no one would have really thought of or paid attention to. It talks about how Michael would go to the park with his brothers to play basketball. But Michael was shorts, and when he subbed in his team always lost. But Michael was always determined to get better. His mom always told him that he had to be patient if he wanted to become taller. So she told him that salt in his shoes would help. It didn't make sense to him, but he trusted his mom. Every single day, Michael would practice non stop. He had to keep going. It didn't matter how tall he was, he was a determined and hard working player. And that is all that mattered. Something i will never forget today is how legendary he is. He had a rough time with basketball as a young child, but that never stopped him. Today, he is a retired 6'6 LEGENDARY basketball player.

Something that wasn't included in the story, is Michael's high school basketball career. This is something that I heard from my dad. I am sure that some biographies include this information, but I thought I would share it with you. In high school, Michael tried out for his high school varsity basket ball team. And guess what? They DENIED him. They denied the most famous basketball player today. But when that happened, Michael didn't quit.. he didn't let it get to him. He kept going, and look where that got him. He proved everyone wrong. This is something that I remember when times get tough, and things don't go my way. I remember that you cant give up.

I would recommend this book to people who like great stories, or books about celebrities. This is because some biographies include some things about people's lives that you may not know. To me, this book is 4/5 stars to me because it tells a great story, and it is about a person that a lot of people like. The only thing that kept me from rating it 5/5 was that it was not a very long book. I am the kind of person that likes long chapter books, but the author wrote about a small portion of someone's life, so i understand that it is not easy to write a 300 page chapter book about that.

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## **Ashli Harper says**

Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream by Deloris Jordan is a fictional story about Michael Jordan wanting to be tall when he was a child. He would play basketball with his older brothers and his neighborhood friends but they were so much taller than him. He felt like he had to be tall to be good. He thought putting salt in his shoes would make him get taller but it didn't. However dedicating time to practice, being patient and working hard made him a lot better when he played the other boys again. I think this book had a good underlying message and black boys who love basketball will love this book. The language is so pure and flows great. The Illustrations done by Kadir Nelson is also very very detailed. Catches the eye really nicely and keeps me interested.

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## **Ms.Tina Stone says**

After hearing so much about this book I am so glad that I finally had the chance to read it for myself. I thought that this was a really great and encouraging book. Salt in His Shoes is an autobiographic memoir written by Deloris Jordan about her son Micheal Jordan. This story focuses on Micheal as a young boy and the trials he went through wanting to pursue basketball but being frustrated because he was shorter than his brothers and his other players. His mom encourages him to pray and put salt in his shoes each night. After doing this for a while and not seeing any results Micheal begins to get even more discouraged. After a talk with his father, Micheal finds the courage he needs to keep playing the game he loves. Micheal Jordan goes on to become one of the greatest and most influential basketball players of our generation.

This book would be a great read aloud for a 3-5th grade classroom because of the beautiful pictures and vocabulary involved but also because it includes lessons on courage, patience, determination, and following your dreams. I think that this book would also be a great read for grades 3-5 because this book can help tie in a lot of other lessons and concepts that I think would be important for children around this age. Overall I really enjoyed this book! It is one that I will definitely be incorporating in my future classrooms.

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## **Tyler Gallon says**

This book meant alot to me as a kid. Even till now I am still inspired about being tall and being one of the best basketball players in the game. Being tall, wanting to play with the big kids and not having patience is something black boys suffer from but experience in their childhood everyday. But what grandma always told me with a little prayer things can happen in many ways and different times.

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## **Brittany Wall says**

Salt in His Shoes-Biography- 3rd grade

Salt in His Shoes is a biography about Michael Jordan written by his mother, Deloris, and sister, Roslyn. This heartwarming and inspirational story tells us about a time when Michael was younger and he was much smaller than all the other basketball players. Some of the kids would pick on Michael for being so short. One day after a game, Michael came home and asked his mother how he could grow taller. His mother thought for a second and responded by saying Michael had to put salt in his shoes and say his prayers before bed. Confused, Michael thought about what his mother had said and began to get excited about how tall he would get. Months went by and Michael didn't grow any taller. Instead of going to the games he wanted to practice. Michael began to get discouraged, so his father sat down to talk to him. He told Michael that it didn't matter how tall Michael was, if he wanted to be good he needed to work hard and have determination. Michael rushed to his game and ended up hitting the game-winning shot. The invaluable lesson his parents taught him from a young age about hard work payed off. As we know, Michael Jordan went on to become the greatest basketball player in history.

This is such an inspiring book, especially for elementary aged students. It tells the true story of what happens when you have patience and work hard toward a dream. I would read this book aloud in a third or fourth

grade classroom. Before reading this story, I would write some important words from the story on the board such as: determined, patience, confident, believing, disappointed. After reading the story I would go back and discuss what these words mean and how they were used in the story. As a follow up activity, I would have the students write a short story about something they wish to accomplish, followed by a list of things they need to do in order to reach their goal. After going through the writing process, I would have the students illustrate their work and share their stories with the class. I would encourage them to include some of the vocabulary words mentioned at the beginning of the lesson. This is a great lesson to teach children that their dreams can come true with patience and hard work.

This is such a great book that can inspire anyone to chase after their dreams. I would definitely recommend this book!

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### **Michaela says**

I think this story is a fun way to introduce children to biographies. This biography about Michael Jordan explains how he so badly wanted to be tall like the rest of the boys he played basketball with as a child. He thought that being tall would make him good- but he learned that with hard work and practice that he could be great. This is a very inspirational story- one of my favorites. Not to mention the illustrations are amazing.

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### **Savannah Webster says**

In this book young Michael Jordan dreams of being an amazing basketball player but he feels like he is at a disadvantage because of his height. His mom tells him to put salt in his shoes and pray over night. Over the next pages he works really hard, his game improves and his team wins. He realized it didn't matter that he wasn't tall or if there was salt in his shoes. It was his determination to be better and all the hard work and practice that helped him achieve his dream. This was a great book to discuss with my not so tall 11 year old to help build up his confidence on the court.

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### **Rachel Giddings says**

Biography:

I really enjoyed reading the biography, Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream. I think that this text would be engaging for students and inspirational as they are also facing some of the same issues that Michael Jordan is described to face. I would use this book in grades 3-5. This biography discusses the internal and external struggles that Michael Jordan faced as a young boy who dreamed to become a tall basketball player.

As a future educator, I can see this book having the potential to be used in the classroom in many ways. I think that this book would tie in really well with some of the character traits often discussed in elementary schools. The book focusses on perseverance, hard work, and following your dreams which are all important lessons to be taught to our students! I believe that while students grade 3-5 could most likely read this book independently, it would be a really great tool to use as a read aloud. Having students reflect on their own similar experiences or other people they know who may have faced some challenges and pushed through

their issues would relate the story to the lived or related experiences of students.

This book was a WOW book for me because it told the story of Michael Jordan, an athlete who many students know and love, realistically. I think that the students can truly relate to the text. I also love that it was written by Michael Jordan's mother and sister.

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### **Erin says**

"Salt in His Shoes" is a story about Michael Jordan and his dream to be a great basketball player. The story is set when Michael was a young boy who wished he were taller, so that he could help his older brothers win their basketball games each Saturday. Michael thought the key to being a great basketball player was how tall he was, which led his mom to suggest that he put salt in his shoes, pray that he would grow taller and be patient. After many weeks of waiting to be taller, Michael grew discouraged that he was not growing. He later learned that being a great basketball player requires more than just being tall. It takes "practice, determination, and giving your best will." This book would be a great option for a read-aloud during Black History Month or even when talking about topics such as: hard work, determination, perseverance, and patients.

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### **Jo Oehrlein says**

When I picked this out, I didn't realize it was written by Michael Jordan's mother. :-)

It's about Michael as a little boy, playing street ball with his brothers and the neighborhood kids. Michael was always the shortest and was guarded by a big boy who seemed to dominate him. Michael spent months practicing and praying and hoping to grow taller. In the end, he wasn't taller, but the practice helped and he was able to shoot over the tall boy.

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### **Brandon Brice says**

This book is about Micheal Jordan and for some reason he can't find a way to get tall. One day he asked did she know a way he could get taller. She replied to pray every night and put salt in his shoes but he had to be patient. He realized that he wasn't getting any taller but his father told him, it's not about what's on the outside, it's what's on the inside.

I liked this book not because it has the best basketball player of all times in it. But it shows kids that you become great in whatever size or shape you are in. You just have to believe in yourself and work hard.

I will teach my students to never give up on anything in life, sometimes things don't go your way but that's the way the cookie crumbles.

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## **Melissa Hicks says**

A biography for young readers about the famous basketball player Michael Jordan. This story is told by Michael Jordan's mother and she sister about the challenges that Michael faced while wanting to accomplish his goal and the lessons they taught that took him far. This is a wonderful read that teaches about character development, grit and the need for perseverance to accomplish goals when feeling defeated.

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## **Donna Mork says**

A young Michael Jordan is too short to win the game, so he asks mom to help him grow taller. She puts salt in his shoes and tells him to pray every day and eat his vegetables and be patient. He is, but doesn't grow. He continues to practice, and becomes very good. He goes to the park again and wins the game. After that, they don't put salt in his shoes but he continues to pray and to practice, and becomes the best player ever, and 6' 6" tall!

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## **Megan Piero says**

This story was written by Michael Jordan's mother and sister and tells about his childhood. When Michael Jordan was younger, his older brothers always played basketball at a nearby court. Michael always wanted to play with them but he was much younger and smaller so he was only allowed to play when one of the older boys wasn't there. When he did have the rare opportunity to play, he often couldn't shoot well because everyone was so much taller than him. He became very frustrated. When he went home he told his mother how he was feeling and she comforted him by telling him that she had a cure to help him grow taller. She told him that she would put salt in his shoes and that if they both prayed each night, it would help them grow taller. Michael decided to not go play with the older boys for awhile while he was waiting to grow taller and practiced around the house. he waited for months and practiced very hard. One day, he measured himself but was very upset when he realized he hadn't grown an inch. When he went to talk to his dad about it, his dad told him that height wasn't what was important. It was practice that mattered. Feeling great, Micheal went down to the park and demanded to play with the older boys. He ended up winning the game for his team, regardless of his height.

As a teacher, I think this book has a lot to offer. I think the message from this book is that even famous stars had to start somewhere. I think it also shows that everyone gets frustrated at some point in life but it's our perseverance that makes us grow. I would definitely have this book in my class and I know I will use it every year no matter what grade I'm teaching.

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## **Carley says**

Young Michael Jordan would spend every Saturday at the park courts with his older brothers, Larry and Ronnie. Since he was the youngest, that also made him the smallest. One boy, Mark, would pick on Michael and take the ball from him. Michael would take this really hard and feel bad that he's the reason his team lost. He thought if only he was taller and then his team would win. Michael asked his mom how he could grow taller and she replied with salt. She told them if he sprinkled salt in his shoes every night and say his

prayers that he would grow taller. Michael decided that he should stay home from the park and practice so he would be taller next time he went. After time went on and he hadn't grown, Michael began to get down. His father told him he didn't need to grow in order to be a great player because he already was. Michael decided to go back to the park to play with his brothers and their friends. Michael was able to go in at the end of the game. The score was tied and Micheal got the ball inbounds. Did he let Marks voice keep him from being a great player??

I think this is a cute story! I'm glad the salt didn't work to make Michael grow, it showed him that everything he needed was already inside of him.

This would be a good book to teach others not to listen to bullies and to teach others that you determine what you can and cannot do. Underlying themes of this book teach patience from Michael and kindness from his brothers.

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