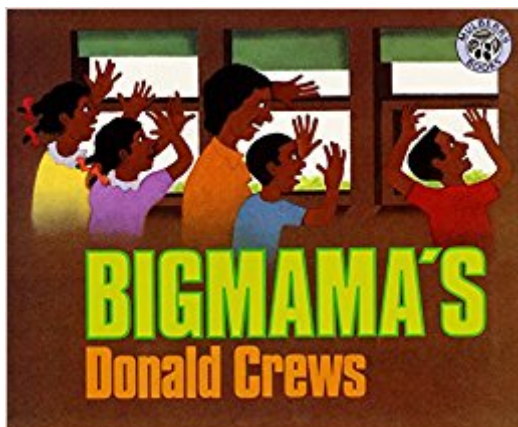


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# Bigmama's



## Synopsis

Donald Crews, the Caldecott Honor artist and award-winning creator of *Freight Train*, *Truck*, and many other classic picture books for young children, writes of his own childhood experiences visiting his grandparents in Florida. Four African American children travel with their mother, and when the train arrives in Cottondale, Florida, the summer at Bigmama's house begins! Donald Crews brilliantly evokes the sights, sounds, and emotions of a memorable childhood experience.

Beautifully and richly illustrated, this is a wonderful choice for family reading and classroom sharing.

"A very special book by a superb artist and storyteller." — The Horn Book Supports the Common Core State Standards

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Greenwillow Books; Reprint edition (January 21, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0688158420

ISBN-13: 978-0688158422

Product Dimensions: 9.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #24,800 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States](#) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Story Collections](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Crews's first book in five years is a departure for this gifted author/artist, and a truly joyous celebration. In his dynamic tale of family togetherness, an African American man recalls boyhood summers spent at his grandmother's rural home in Florida. Each year the vacation began with an adventurous three-day train ride to Bigmama's ("Not that she was big, but she was Mama's mama") in Cottondale. The hot, hazy months that followed were filled with relatives, fishing and good times. A backyard coop "where Sunday dinner's chicken spent its last days," the barn and pond all begged

to be explored by rambunctious visitors. Even the stars shone brighter in the night sky at this wondrous place. Like the title character so lovingly depicted within, the book's jacket is warm and enticing--vibrant, boldly outlined letters draw readers into a fragrant slice of Americana. Crews's rich earth tones perfectly portray the rustic life of this bygone era, while the lanky, barefoot children embody the relaxed--and utterly relaxing--freedom of summer. In the manner of exemplary works for children, *Bigmama's* works splendidly on more than one level. The evocative text provides plenty of action to interest younger readers and--for their parents--the nostalgic tone cannot fail to lovingly recall carefree days long past. Reality, in the form of a present-day metropolis viewed through a window, brings the story to an appropriate close, as the narrator, older and bearded, "even now" longs to recapture the essence of enchantment that was found at Bigmama's. Ages 4-up. (Oct.) .Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 1-4-- In this very appealing picture-book reminiscence, Crews invites readers to journey back to his childhood. Four African-American children and their mother travel by train to visit grandparents in a rural town. When the family reaches its destination, the children inspect each room of the house. Outside, they investigate the yard, the toolshed, the barn, the stable, and, finally, the pond. To their everlasting delight and satisfaction, they see that everything is "still the same." Crews departs from the graphic style employed so memorably in *Freight Train* (1978) and *Parade* (1983, both Greenwillow). His watercolor and gouache illustrations are an attractive blend of simplicity and sophistication. His expertise is evident throughout. Characters are placed in their setting with utmost consideration, and are dressed in colors that create a sort of "warm rainbow" scattered about the farm and the happy household. This offering is intended for a somewhat older audience than Crews's earlier works, and will work well in classrooms. It is similar in mood and content to James Stevenson's *When I Was Nine* (Greenwillow, 1986) and Cynthia Rylant's *When I Was Young in the Mountains* (Dutton, 1982). A wonderful selection for family story times. --Eve Larkin, Chicago Public LibraryCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I adore Donald Crews's books and the wonderful adventures he takes his readers on. And *Bigmama's* is no exception. It is another one of his great adventures that he tells from his life. I read this almost every year to my kindergarten class and they LOVE it. It is a great way to show how an author writes from his own life experiences. I would recommend this book!

purchased as a gift and the boys loved it!

I want my Granddaughter to see how life was, when I was a small girl! These books show her a little of the past and to understand that today God made EVERYONE equal.

I used this book as a teaching tool for my kindergarteners. We were learning how to write narratives. This book illustrates how to do this wonderfully. The next book in this series, Shortcut, is also a must buy.

This book took me back to the days when I spent my summers at my grandma's house. I can only hope my grand-kids will have the same kind of memories.

Really like this book, mostly because of the illustrations.

This is a great read aloud for my 2nd graders. I have them write about a place they have visited after making their own connections to this book.

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Bigmama's

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