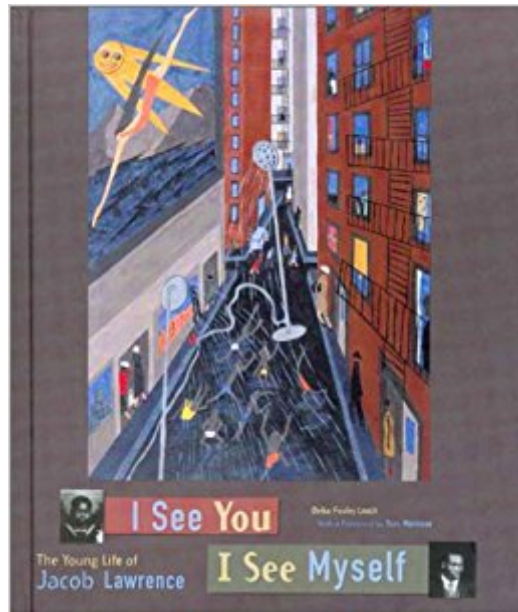


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# I See You, I See Myself: The Young Life Of Jacob Lawrence



## Synopsis

*I See You, I See Myself*, written for young adult readers, examines the early experiences and choices that led Jacob Lawrence to become an artist. In bold colors and precise language, the book describes how the break up of his parents, a period of foster care, reunification with his mother, brother, and sister in Harlem, and the influence of other adults in his community shaped the decisions Lawrence made about his art and his life. The hurdles that he faced - moving, parent separation, and discrimination - are ones that challenge many children today. *I See You, I See Myself* describes how the choices one makes in dealing with these challenges start to shape a person's life. It includes 65 color illustrations of Lawrence's work, accompanied by photographs documenting his early experiences in the Harlem community. Jacob Lawrence was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in 1917. Moving from there to Easton, Pennsylvania, and finally to Harlem in 1930, his family was part of the Great Migration of African Americans who relocated to the North from the South. Raised among the "New Negroes" - the emerging African American writers, artists, and poets who were a manifestation of the Harlem Renaissance - Lawrence was one of the first artists trained in and by the African American community in Harlem. At Utopia Children's House, a community daycare center, Lawrence received his earliest art instruction from Charles Alston, then a graduate student at Columbia University Teachers College. Lawrence continued to study with Alston throughout the 1930s at the WPA Harlem Art Workshop and at Alston's studio. He encountered notable artists, writers, and activists, such as Langston Hughes, Ralph Ellison, William Aaron Douglas, Orson Wells, Alain Locke, Addison Bates, and Augusta Savage, who had a profound effect on his development as an artist.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up-A delightful introduction to the artist and his work, based on interviews with Lawrence. Leach talks about the subject's early life and how he began to paint at age 13, experimenting with geometric shapes and patterns, and explains how personal experiences influenced his art. The paintings themselves are colorful and detailed narratives that depict African-American history and culture, and they vividly portray the lives of the poor and disenfranchised in a way that will appeal to young people. The author follows Lawrence's life and career up to age 25, and includes reproductions from his "Migration Series" and "Harriet Tubman Series" as well as many of his single pieces. The book ends with an invitation for readers to try creating their own works of art. Joyce Fay Fletcher, Rippon Middle School, Prince William County, VA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### ART

good for book report

This is a wonderful little book, focusing on Jacob Lawrence's early work of the 30s and 40s, and his life as an emerging artist. What makes it particularly special, besides the wonderful illustrations of some works that are rarely seen is the short but fascinating introduction by Toni Morrison, who apparently adores Lawrence's work. Who knew? I am certainly glad to find this out, and could use more of this kind of information about what African American writers like about African American visual artists. Visual artists crave that kind of attention, and the rest of us readers can never get enough.

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