Hello. This is Andrea Davis Pinkney, Vice President and Publisher, Houghton Mifflin Children’s Division. Publishing books that touch the lives of young readers is a tremendous privilege. We who create children’s books have the rare opportunity and responsibility to gently open the minds of young people. That is why I invited award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson to tackle the difficult subject of lynching in a book intended for young readers.

_A Wreath for Emmett Till_ is an evocative tribute to a 14-year-old African-American boy who, on a summer night in 1955 in Mississippi, was lynched. His untimely death helped spark the Civil Rights movement and changed the face of American history forever.

When I approached Marilyn Nelson about creating a book that addresses this disturbing topic, she was understandably reluctant. But just days later, she sent me a complete and a compelling manuscript. It was clear the idea had struck a chord.

Marilyn has brilliantly crafted Emmett Till’s story in the form of a wreath. She’s done this through a little known and sophisticated form of poetry known as a “heroic crown of sonnets.” The result of Marilyn’s work will stir your soul and swell the hearts of those who read this book. It is at once haunting, beautiful, illuminating and unforgettable.

I invite you now to hear Marilyn Nelson herself give voice to her own mastery as she reads _A Wreath for Emmett Till_, published by Houghton Mifflin Children’s Books in the spring of 2005. August 2005 marks the 50th anniversary of Emmett Till’s death, so the book serves as a special remembrance. We at Houghton Mifflin are proud and honored to bring you _A Wreath for Emmett Till_.

For teaching resources on _A Wreath for Emmett Till_, and to hear author Marilyn Nelson reading her book and discussing its creation, go to [www.TeachingBooks.net](http://www.TeachingBooks.net)

Books by Marilyn Nelson
(Note: Marilyn Nelson is also published as Marilyn Nelson Waniek.)
- CACHOIERA TALES AND OTHER POEMS, THE, Louisiana State University Press, 2005
- WREATH FOR EMMETT TILL, A (illustrated by Philippe Lardy), Houghton Mifflin, 2005
- FORTUNE’S BONES: THE MANUMISSION REQUIEM, Front Street Books, 2004
- CARVER: A LIFE IN POEMS, Front Street Books, 2001
- SHE-DEVIL CIRCUS, Aralia Press, 2001
- TRIOLETS FOR TRIOLET, Curbstone Press, 2001
• MAGNIFICAT: POEMS, Louisiana State University Press, 1994
• HOMEPLACE, THE, Louisiana State University Press, 1990
• MAMA’S PROMISES, Louisiana State University Press, 1985
• CAT WALKED THROUGH THE CASSEROLE AND OTHER POEMS FOR CHILDREN, THE (written with Pamela Espeland; illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman), Carolrhoda, 1984
• HUNDREDS OF HENS AND OTHER POEMS FOR CHILDREN: TRANSLATIONS FROM THE WORKS OF DANISH POET HELFDEN WEDEL RASMUSSEN (written with Pamela Espeland), Black Willow, 1983
• FOR THE BODY, Louisiana State University Press, 1978

Selected Essays by Marilyn Nelson
• “Aborigine in the Citadel,” The Hudson Review, Winter 2001
• “Owning the Masters,” Gettysburg Review, Spring 1995, vol 8, number 2

Note: Bibliographies created in 2005.

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