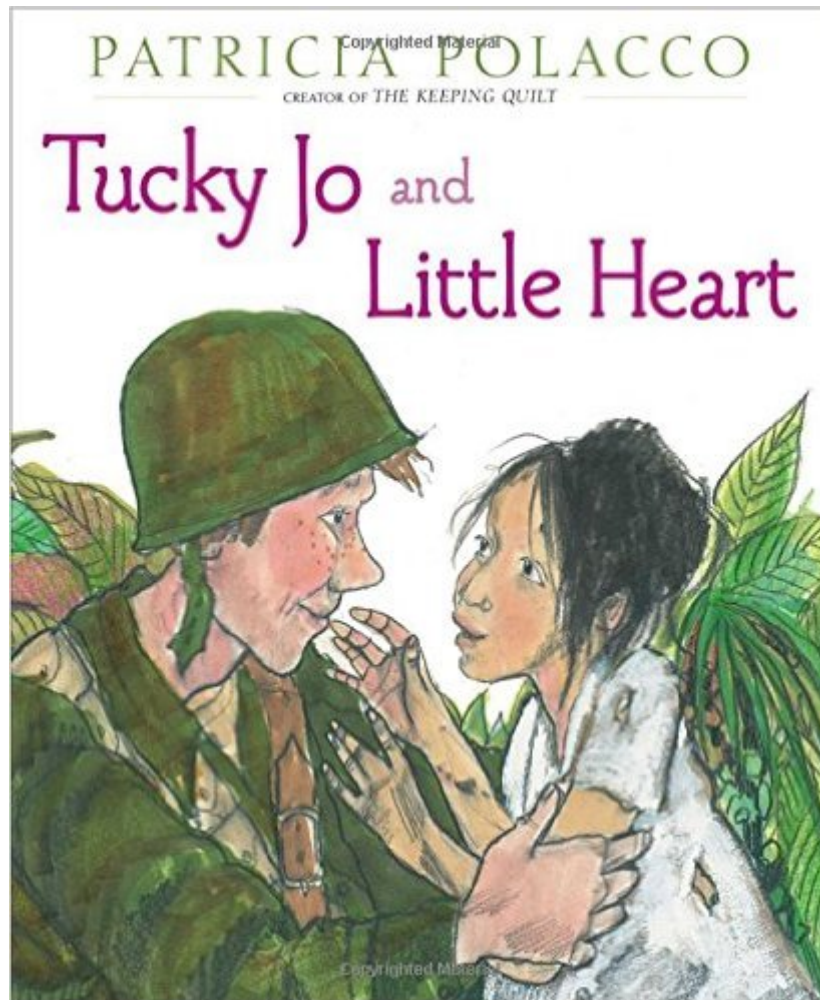


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Tucky Jo And Little Heart



Synopsis

Friendship, loyalty, and kindness stand the test of time in this heartwarming World War II-era picture book based on a true story from the beloved author-illustrator of *Pink and Say* and *The Keeping Quilt*. Tucky Jo was known as the "œkid from Kentucky" when he enlisted in the army at age fifteen. Being the youngest recruit in the Pacific during World War II was tough. But he finds a friend in a little girl who helps him soothe his bug bites, and he gets to know her family and gives them some of his rations. Although the little girl doesn't speak English, Tucky Jo and Little Heart share the language of kindness. Many years later, Tucky Jo and Little Heart meet again, and an act of kindness is returned when it's needed the most in this touching picture book based on a true story.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD740L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books (August 25, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1481415840

ISBN-13: 978-1481415842

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.6 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (28 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #67,776 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#67 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars](#) [#220 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#) [#277 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Much of this story takes place in the jungles of the main Philippines island of Luzon in the South Pacific Ocean during World War Two. It's the related story of Johnnie Wallen, who is barely old enough to carry a military rifle, and a "scrawny little ol' [Pilipino] girl" who befriends him. They don't speak each other's language, yet their communication is emotional as well as joyful during the devastation of her homeland in the war with Japan. Johnnie saves her--"little Heart," he calls

her--and her villagers' lives. He never forgets the attachment they made during that brief, but horrifying time. She was trucked off to safety, he back to the U.S. Almost 70 years later, that grown child accidentally runs into her "savior". Although this story is filled with emotion and has a surprise at the end, it is a non-enticing slow starter for about one-third of the book. If reading aloud to children I suggest that this is not a story you can start and come back to: You need to read the whole book--15 minutes?--to have your listeners (and viewers of the wonderful illustrations) fully appreciate this--true, we're told--wonderful tale. Suitable for grades 3-8/ages 9-14 (for listening), and a probable minimum reading level of 3.2 for independent reading. The Creative Teacher: Activities for Language Arts (Grades 4 through 8 and Up)

Though this book says the age range is 4-8 years (Pre-K-3rd grade) I'd edit that to say a little bit older. The pages are very wordy and because it is written as it would have been spoken (ex: "Bein' the youngest recruit on that there ship, almost everyone aboard was callin' me "that kid from Kentucky," or just "the kid".) it might be a challenge for a younger reader to tackle. Certainly kids as young as 4 or 5 would love to listen along, but it would be more towards the upper range to be able to start to read independently. This doesn't affect my star rating, but just a heads up for potential buyers. The story is a very sweet one. A little history, a little culture, and a lot of compassion and love. Sometimes with all the negative comments and stories about war it is nice to see a beautiful story to have come about. The writing is wonderful and really paints a clear picture of the events and feelings of "Tucky Jo"- both in content and delivery. Military families will especially love this book. The illustrations are done in a perfect style to complement the tone and content of the story. Big thanks to Patricia Polacco to have captured this story from one of our country's vets so that the next generation can read and know it.

Another great story by PP. I have the hardest time reading her books to my students because I cry every time I read them. Based on a true WW2 event, with a sad commentary on our nation's poor treatment of our brave veterans, this story will thrill and touch your heart. Perfect for intermediate students especially.

This book was wonderful! I read it to my 5th grade special education students in order to give an illustration of what was expected when writing personal narratives. They loved the story and I loved sharing it with them. The fact that he was actually from Kentucky was bonus!

I am collecting Patricia Polacco books for my children. We received our first, "bun bun button" in the mail through a program called Books from Birth that is sponsored by Dolly Parton. Children who are signed up at birth for this free program receive one book per month till they are five years and go to school. (Excellent Charity but that's another review) This is one of our favorite books by her. This talented author takes you to the jungle with this soldier Tucky Jo. You feel what he feels and you love what he loves and you learn as he does to love in the midst of hate. It is an excellent book. All of hers are. Patricia Polacco never fails to touch the heart.

This is the sweetest, most heart felt, children's book I have come across. This is the story of an act of kindness done during a time of tribulation, that test time and space. There were a few men of time period that were truly way too young to be fighting in a war. Here the reader sees a young man's kindness over what is a terrible surroundings. He takes a huge chance by befriending this young girl and heartbreak will follow, in the end, it was worth it. I loved that his friendship with this small girl would eventually grow to be something big and save not one life but two. This book is a true story and highly recommended. 5 stars! Disclosure: I picked up a copy of this book from my local library. The view expressed here are 100% my own and may differ from yours. ~M.M. aka Naila Moon

Recently my electricity was down from a power outage and I went to the local library to charge my iphone. I had a great time in the children's section and read many wonderful books. This one was my favorite! I loved the story, the illustrations, the wording. I bought a copy for a dear friend, an adult, just because I thought the message was so beautiful. Very heartwarming!

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