

A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit

Use this toolkit to plan library programs as well as activities for the daycare, classroom, or family.

Meet Ohio author Angela Johnson and Ohio illustrator Loren Long, who have collaborated on two picture books in addition to their many books created separately.

Learn about the Tuskegee Airmen and the important role these African American pilots played in World War II.

Explore fun activities that align with Ohio's Learning Standards for kindergarten through grade 3.

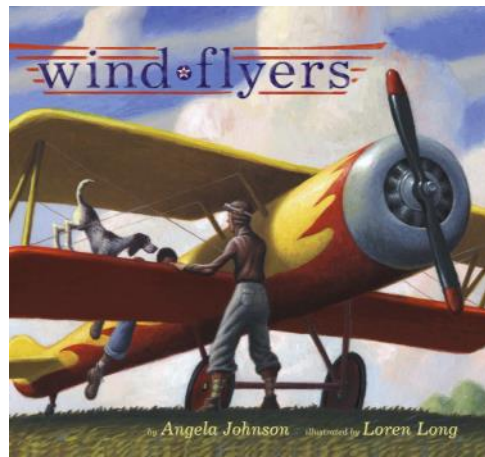
Wind Flyers

By Angela Johnson (author)
and Loren Long (illustrator)



About the Book

Three-time Coretta Scott King Award-winning author Angela Johnson and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Loren Long invite readers to ponder a band of undercelebrated World War II heroes -- the Tuskegee Airmen. **Wind Flyers** reveals how a boy's love of flight takes him on a journey from the dusty dirt roads of Alabama to the war-torn skies of Europe, and into the hearts of those who are only now beginning to understand the part these brave souls played in the history of America.



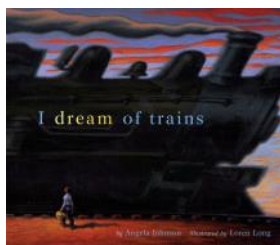
Simon & Schuster, 2007. ISBN 9780689848797.
Ages 5-9.

Leveled Reading: AR Points 0.5. ATOS Book Level 2.9.

books.simonandschuster.com/Wind-Flyers

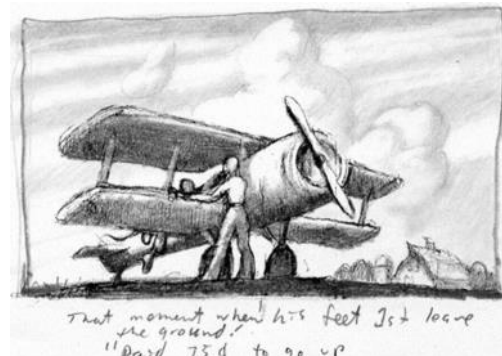
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Book sketch courtesy Loren Long;
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Available as an ebook through the Ohio Digital Library: ohiodigitallibrary.com



Wind Flyers is the second collaboration between Ohioans Angela Johnson and Loren Long. If you enjoy **Wind Flyers**, look for their earlier book, **I Dream of Trains** (Simon & Schuster, 2003), winner of the 2003 Golden Kite Award for picture book illustration, presented by the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. It is a story about a boy, his love for trains, and his adulation of one legendary engineer.

Don't miss the Books section of Loren Long's website, where you can see original sketches for **Wind Flyers** and Loren Long's other books, including 2011 & 2012 CTRO selection **Otis** and 2016 CTRO Floyd's Pick winner and Ohioana Book Award winner **Little Tree**.
lorenlong.com





Author photo and biographical information courtesy Simon & Schuster; used with permission. Photo by Roz Pinkard.

About the Author

Angela Johnson has won three Coretta Scott King Awards, one each for her novels ***The First Part Last***, ***Heaven***, and ***Toning the Sweep***. ***The First Part Last*** was also the recipient of the Michael L. Printz Award. She is also the author of the novels ***Looking for Red***, ***A Certain October*** and ***Sweet, Hereafter***, which was a 2011 & 2012 Choose to Read Ohio selection. Her books for younger readers include the Coretta Scott King Honor Book ***When I Am Old with You***, illustrated by David Soman; ***Wind Flyers*** and ***I Dream of Trains***, both illustrated by Loren Long; and ***Lottie Paris Lives Here*** and its sequel ***Lottie Paris and the Best Place***, both illustrated by Scott M. Fischer. Additional picture books include ***A Sweet Smell of Roses***, ***Just Like Josh Gibson***, ***The Day Ray Got Away***, and ***All Different Now***. In recognition of her outstanding talent, Angela was named a 2003 MacArthur Fellow. She lives in Kent, Ohio.

Author Resources

Angela Johnson's official website

ajohnsonauthor.com

Author page on Simon & Schuster website

simonandschuster.com/authors/Angela-Johnson

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

Contact Roberta at author.appearances@simonandschuster.com

Bulk pricing may be available for libraries, schools, and others who wish to purchase ***Wind Flyers*** in quantity for CTRO programming. For more information, contact Christine Naulty, Christine.Naulty@simonandschuster.com

Talk About It!

Share these questions with children to increase comprehension and spark creativity.

**"Tuskegee wind
flyers**

**flying into the
wind**

against the wind

**beyond the
wind,**

**the magical
wind."**

- How did Great-great-uncle know that he wanted to fly? Is there something you have always wanted to do? What is it? How do you think you could attain it?
- Have you ever flown in an airplane? Describe what the experience was like. What is similar about the plane you flew in (or planes you notice in the sky, if you have not flown) and the planes in ***Wind Flyers***? What is different?
- What do you think Uncle means when he says "There was magic in the wind back then"? Notice that the book ends with the narrator describing his flight into "the magical wind."
- Why did the Air Force not want the Tuskegee Airmen at first? Have you ever experienced or witnessed someone being treated differently because of the color of his or her skin? What did you experience and how did it make you feel?
- What part of the book did Angela Johnson create? What part did Loren Long create? How do the two parts work together? Would you rather be an author or an illustrator? (Note: consider sharing a picture book written by Angela Johnson and illustrated by another artist, to discuss how different illustrators make different art and have varying ideas about how a story "looks." Or compare ***Wind Flyers*** and ***I Dream of Trains*** to discuss how Loren Long's art works with Angela Johnson's text.)

About the Illustrator

Loren Long illustrated President Barack Obama's ***Of Thee I Sing***; the newest version of ***The Little Engine that Could***; Madonna's second picture book, ***Mr. Peabody's Apples***; ***Nightson*** by Ari Berk; and the *Barnstormers* series. He also illustrated Frank McCourt's ***Angela and the Baby Jesus*** and is part of the Design Garage for Jon Scieszka's *Trucktown* series. He is the author of 2011 & 2012 Choose to Read Ohio (CTRO) selection ***Otis*** and several sequels about Otis the tractor. His picture book ***Little Tree*** won the 2016 Ohioana Award and was named the inaugural CTRO "Floyd's Pick" in memory of educator, librarian, and children's literature advocate Floyd Dickman, who encouraged Loren early in his career. Loren's work has appeared in *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Forbes*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Atlantic*. He lives with his wife and two sons in West Chester, Ohio.



Author photo and biographical information courtesy Simon & Schuster; used with permission. Photo by Paul Schliesser.

Illustrator Resources

Loren Long's official website

lorenlong.com

Illustrator page on Simon & Schuster website

simonandschuster.com/authors/Loren-Long

Greenacres Foundation interviews Loren Long (video)

youtu.be/83H_zcLPico

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

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Meet the Tuskegee Airmen

From the Author's Note to ***Wind Flyers***.

"In January of 1941, under pressure from the NAACP and other groups, the U.S. Army Air Force created the all-black 99th Pursuit Squadron. The 332nd Fighter Group had been formed in 1942, making it the only four-squadron fighter group in the Army Air Force. These pilots were trained on an airfield in Tuskegee, Alabama, and thus called, the Tuskegee Airmen; although the army had no intention of ever using them in battle. Under pressure from the Roosevelt administration the 99th was finally posted in North Africa in 1943."

Learn more about the Tuskegee Airmen:

A Double War (interview with Tuskegee Airman Frederick Henry, from *Time for Kids*)

timeforkids.com/news/double-war/5401

The Tuskegee Airmen: The African American Pilots of WWII (from the National WWII Museum)

nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/at-a-glance/tuskegee-airmen.html

Use online resources available to students through INFOhio (infohio.org) and to all Ohio residents through Ohio Web Library (ohioweblibrary.org) to research the Tuskegee Airmen in more depth.

For a library program or class project, the children may work together to create a mural about the Tuskegee Airmen (depicting pilots in uniform, aircraft, map of Alabama with Tuskegee labeled, etc.) and caption each element with an explanatory note based on the research resources.

Tie It In!

Using this book with Ohio's Learning Standards.

Educators: Every CTRO book may be used to support Ohio's English Language Arts reading, writing, and speaking and listening standards. Other Learning Standards also apply. Here are examples of activities using *Wind Flyers* that align with Ohio's Learning Standards for Kindergarten – Grade 3.

Librarians, parents, and others: These activities are also for library programs, family activities, and other projects. Learning Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, education.ohio.gov. From the Topics dropdown menu, click on "Ohio's Learning Standards."

These activities are also great for library programs, family time, and playgroups.

Social Studies

Geography: Spatial Thinking and Skills. Use a world map or a globe to locate and identify Tuskegee, Alabama, as well as the region around North Africa, the Mediterranean, and Sicily, Italy, where the Tuskegee Airmen were stationed and flew during World War II. Discuss the relative location of each to your location in Ohio.

History: Historical Thinking and Skills. Have each child ask an adult family member to share a special dream or goal from his or her childhood. What was that dream or goal? Why did they have this dream? Did they achieve this dream or goal, or do they still hope to achieve it? Have the children each write a story about what they learned from their interviews, and attach a photograph or drawing of the person they interviewed, or if possible, two photographs or drawings: one of the person as a child and one of the person now.

(Note: this activity also addresses the *Relationships: Interaction with Adults* standard).

Approaches toward Learning

Creativity: Innovation and Invention. The group may work together or independently to build a fleet of paper airplanes. Many plans and instructions for paper airplanes may be found online, and books of paper airplane designs may be available at the library (find your local Ohio public library: oplin.org/fal). Use different types and weights of paper, such as newspaper and construction paper, to fold into planes. Decorate the planes using markers or crayons, and write inspiring messages or fun names on them. When finished, fly the planes across a classroom, playground or backyard. Discuss which planes fly fastest, farthest, or straightest, and why.

Creativity: Expression of Ideas and Feelings through the Arts. Uncle's love of flying through the sky is captured in Loren Long's illustrations. Encourage the children to look up at the sky and the horizon outside the school, library, or home. What colors, objects, and natural formations do they see? Provide watercolors or other paints so the children can each create a picture of the sky. Have them each imagine their paintings as the cover illustration for a book, and think of a title for the book. Have each take turns sharing his or her painting and book title with the group.

Social / Emotional Development

Self: Awareness & Expression of Emotion. War and racial prejudice are challenging topics, but the book focuses more on Uncle's joy of flying than on the difficult aspects of his experiences. Using clues in the text and pictures, help the children identify all the emotions they think Uncle and the narrator feel and show. Ask: how does the book make you feel? Joyful? Sad? Curious? Or a mixture of different emotions? This discussion may help children identify and name more nuanced emotions, and may help them understand that others' feelings may be different from their own.

Some activities adapted from the Activity Guide for 2008-09 Emphasis on Reading Books, Alabama Camellia Children's Choice Book Award (alex.state.al.us/libmedia/node/27). Used with permission.

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio the Ohioana Library Association, and the Ohio Center for the Book, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors, illustrators, and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: library.ohio.gov/ctro.

This toolkit revised
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