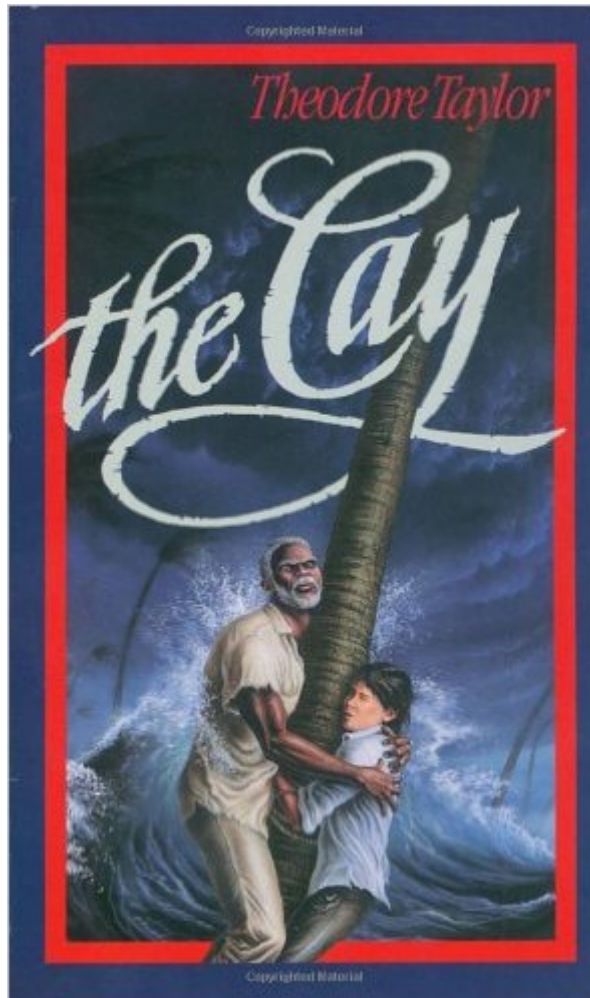


The book was found

# The Cay (Laurel-Leaf Books)



## Synopsis

Read Theodore Taylor's classic bestseller and Lewis Carroll Shelf Award winner *The Cay*. Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curaçao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed. When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy. Phillip remembers his mother's warning about black people: "They are different, and they live differently." But by the time the castaways arrive on a small island, Phillip's head injury has made him blind and dependent on Timothy. Mr. Taylor has provided an exciting story. The idea that all humanity would benefit from this special form of color blindness permeates the whole book. The result is a story with a high ethical purpose but no sermon. "New York Times Book Review" "A taut tightly compressed story of endurance and revelation. At once barbed and tender, tense and fragile" as Timothy would say, "outrageous good." "Kirkus Reviews" "Fully realized setting. Artful, unobtrusive use of dialect. The representation of a hauntingly deep love, the poignancy of which is rarely achieved in children's literature." "School Library Journal, Starred" "Starkly dramatic, believable and compelling." "Saturday Review" "A tense and moving experience in reading." "Publishers Weekly" "Eloquently underscores the intrinsic brotherhood of man." "Booklist" "This is one of the best survival stories since Robinson Crusoe." "The Washington Star" A New York Times Best Book of the Year A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Horn Book Honor Book An American Library Association Notable Book A Publishers Weekly Children's Book to Remember A Child Study Association's Pick of Children's Books of the Year Jane Addams Book Award Lewis Carroll Shelf Award Commonwealth Club of California: Literature Award Southern California Council on Literature for Children and Young People Award Woodward School Annual Book Award Friends of the Library Award, University of California at Irvine

From the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (961 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #3,625 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books >

Geography & Cultures > Explore the World #271 in Books > Children's Books > Action &

Adventure #363 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

**PLOT SPOILERS / WARNING:** Do not read this review/summary if you haven't yet read the book!!**CHARACTERS:** Phillip Enright, 11, American citizen living with his parents on Curacao; Timothy, an elderly black West Indian deckhand; and Stew Cat, a tomcat shipwrecked along with them.**SUMMARY:** In February 1942 the Germans attack an oil refinery on Aruba, neighboring island of Curacao, Dutch island off the Venezuelan coast. Young Phillip is living in Willemstad, Curacao, with his parents, but after the attack his mother wants to return to America. Phillip and Father are against the plan, but eventually Mother gets her way. Just days out to sea, the Germans torpedo the Dutch freighter Phillip and his mother have boarded to flee Curacao. The ship breaks up and sinks; mother and son are separated. Mrs. Enright's fate is unknown, but Phillip is hauled onto a lifeboat by a very old black West Indian who'd been a crewmember on board the "Hato." The only other occupant of the lifeboat is an old cat named Stew Cat; the three are adrift on the open sea for days with only a keg of water, some matches and a few crackers. Phillip was struck on the head when the "Hato" was sunk, and he has a splitting headache and concussion. After two days on the raft with Timothy and Stew Cat, he goes completely blind. On the third day at sea a plane flies overhead and Timothy signals for help with a torch, but they are not seen. Timothy, Phillip and the cat make it to a small island that the old Negro, an old sea-hand, figures must be in the Devil's Mouth. Phillip's initial reaction to Timothy is one of revulsion; he finds the big black man ugly and frightening.

This book was awesome! It started out with a boy named Phillip who lived in the Caribbean. Phillip and his family were racist toward black people. They kind of thought that they were bums! During the book, 1942, some German tankers were attacking the ships that went out to sea. After a while Phillip's mother did not feel safe where they lived. She wanted to go back to Virginia where they had

lived before they moved south. Since Phillips dad had a steady job and was helping in the war he decided that it would be best if they stayed on the island. Phillips mother preferred to go back to the states. Phillip and his mother went back alone. On their way they got bombed. there was a great explosion and everyone was frightened. They made it to the life boats safely with the other passengers. But they did not stay in the boat for long. The boat capsized and Phillip got knocked on the head. When he woke up he was on a boat with his worst enemy, a black man. He was a very, very ugly and he was very, very large. Phillip was very frightened. But mainly he was scared about knowing where his mother was. During this whole time on this lifeboat with this black man named Timothy, Phillip had a terrible headache. One day he woke up and he was blind. The only plus was that his headache was gone. One day they landed on an island. They were stuck on it for a long time. While they were on the island there was a hurricane. It made a log fall on both of them. It knocked both of them out. But Timothy did not wake up. Shortly a ship came and saved Phillip. The conflict in this book were man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. society, and man vs. himself. The man vs. man was the white people on the island and the black people on the island. The man vs.

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