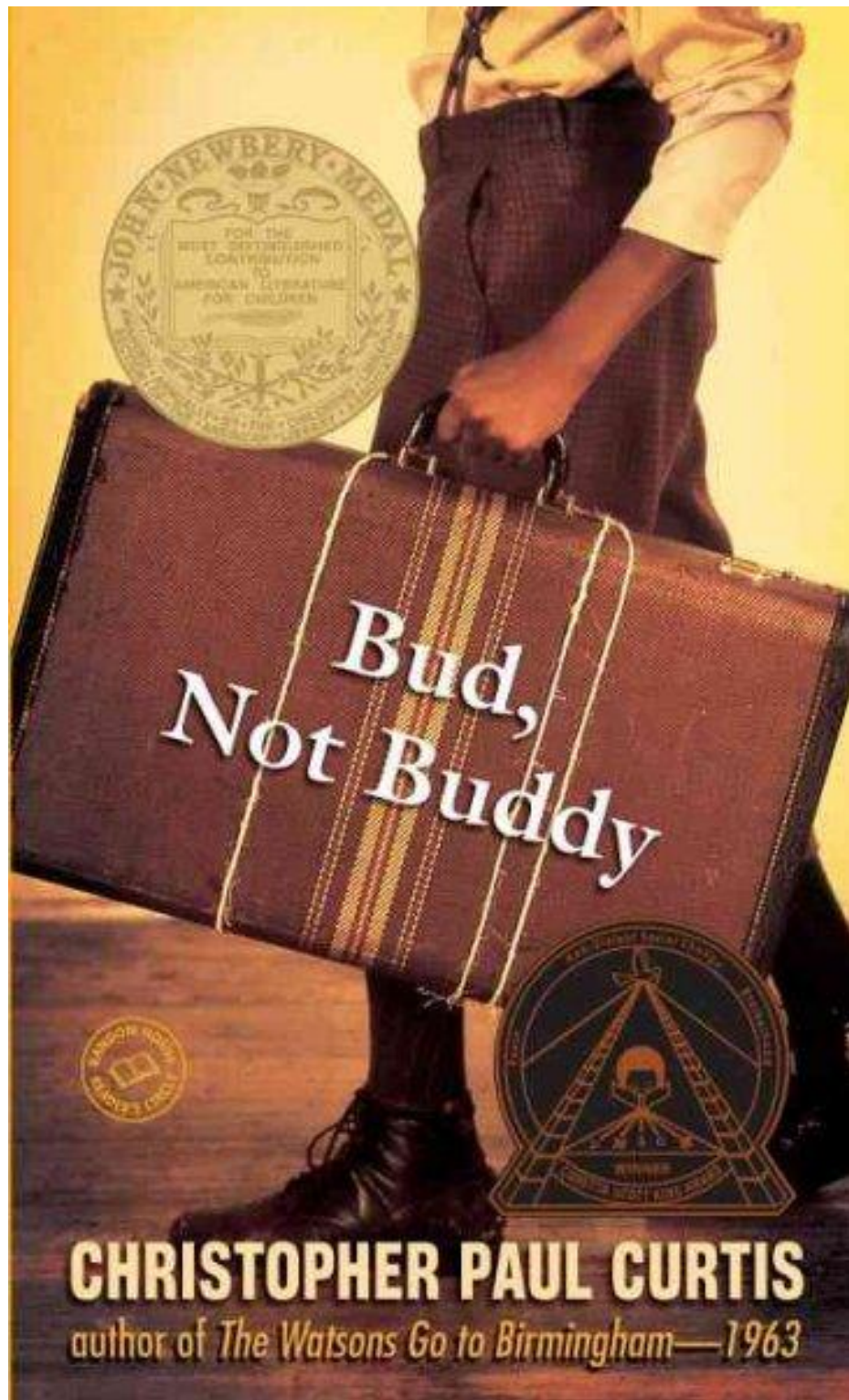
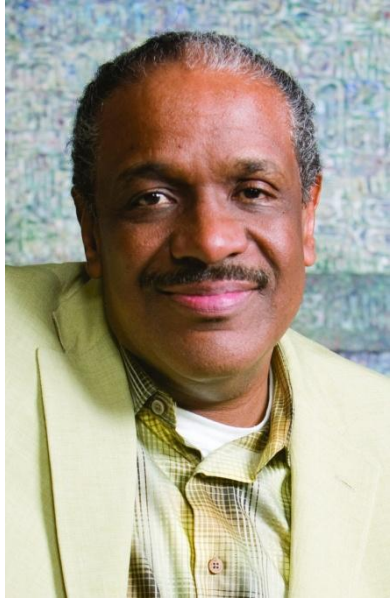


## About the book...



*It's the Depression, and Bud is ten and has been in and out of the Flint, Michigan, children's home and foster homes since his mother died. After a particularly terrible, though riotously recounted, evening with his latest foster family, Bud decides to take off and find the man he believes is his father, bandleader Herman E. Calloway. His journey takes him to what turns out to be his grandfather's hometown and his band. He comes across danger, fun, sadness, and, eventually, true happiness.*

## About the Author...



Born in Flint, Michigan, Christopher Paul Curtis spent his first 13 years after high school on the assembly line of Flint's historic Fisher Body Plant #1. His job entailed hanging car doors, and it left him with an aversion to getting into and out of large automobiles – particularly big Buicks.

Curtis' writing - and his dedication to it – has been greatly influenced by his family members. With grandfathers like Earl "Lefty" Lewis, a Negro Baseball League pitcher, and 1930s bandleader Herman E. Curtis, Sr., of Herman Curtis and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression, it is easy to see why Christopher Paul Curtis was destined to become an entertainer.

Christopher Paul Curtis made an outstanding debut in children's literature with "[The Watsons Go to Birmingham](#) – 1963". His second novel, "[Bud, Not Buddy](#)" is the first book ever to receive both the Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Author Award. Curtis is the father of three children, Steven, Cydney, and Ayaan. Curtis enjoys playing

basketball, collecting old record albums, and writing.

For more information visit:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/features/christopherpaulcurtis/>.

## **Writings**

- [\*Elijah of Buxton\*](#), Scholastic Press (New York), 2007
- [\*Funny Business\*](#), Walden Pond Press (New York), 2010
- [\*Mr. Chickee's Funny Money\*](#), Wendy Lamb Books (New York), 2005
- [\*Mr. Chickee's Messy Mission\*](#), Random House Children's Books (New York), 2007
- [\*The Mighty Miss Malone\*](#), Wendy Lamb Books (New York), 2012
- [\*The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963\*](#), Delacorte Press (New York), 1995

## **Awards**

- Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Honor for "The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963" (1996)
- Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Award for "Bud, Not Buddy" (2000)

- Newbery Honor, Coretta Scott King Award, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction for "Elijah of Buxton" (2008)

## **Reviews**

### *School Library Journal*

When 10-year-old Bud Caldwell runs away from his new foster home, he realizes he has nowhere to go but to search for the father he has never known: a legendary jazz musician advertised on some old posters his deceased mother had kept. A friendly stranger picks him up on the road in the middle of the night and deposits him in Grand Rapids, MI, with Herman E. Calloway and his jazz band, but the man Bud was convinced was his father turns out to be old, cold, and cantankerous. Luckily, the band members are more welcoming; they take him in, put him to work, and begin to teach him to play an instrument. In a Victorian ending, Bud uses the rocks he has treasured from his childhood to prove his surprising relationship with Mr. Calloway. The lively humor contrasts with the grim details of the Depression-era setting and the particular difficulties faced by African Americans at that time. Bud is a plucky, engaging protagonist. Other characters are exaggerations: the good ones (the librarian and Pullman car porter who help him on his journey and the band members who embrace

him) are totally open and supportive, while the villainous foster family finds particularly imaginative ways to torture their charge. However, readers will be so caught up in the adventure that they won't mind. Curtis has given a fresh, new look to a traditional orphan-finds-a-home story that would be a crackerjack read-aloud.

### *Booklist*

Bud, 10, is on the run from the orphanage and from yet another mean foster family. His mother died when he was 6, and he wants to find his father. Set in Michigan during the Great Depression, this is an Oliver Twist kind of foundling story, but it's told with affectionate comedy, like the first part of Curtis' "The Watsons Go to Birmingham". On his journey, Bud finds danger and violence (most of it treated as farce), but more often, he finds kindness--in the food line, in the library, in the Hooverville squatter camp, on the road--until he discovers who he is and where he belongs. Told in the boy's naive, desperate voice, with lots of examples of his survival tactics ("Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar out of Yourself"), this will make a great read-aloud. Curtis says in an afterword that some of the characters are based on real people, including his own grandfathers, so

it's not surprising that the rich blend of tall tale, slapstick, sorrow, and sweetness has the wry, teasing warmth of family folklore.

### *Publishers Weekly*

As in his Newbery Honor-winning debut, "The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963", Curtis draws on a remarkable and disarming mix of comedy and pathos, this time to describe the travails and adventures of a 10-year-old African-American orphan in Depression-era Michigan. Bud is fed up with the cruel treatment he has received at various foster homes, and after being locked up for the night in a shed with a swarm of angry hornets, he decides to run away. His goal: to reach the man he, on the flimsiest of evidence, believes to be his father, jazz musician Herman E. Calloway. Relying on his own ingenuity and good luck, Bud makes it to Grand Rapids, where his "father" owns a club. Calloway, who is much older and grouchier than Bud imagined, is none too thrilled to meet a boy claiming to be his long-lost son. It is the other members of his band, Steady Eddie, Mr. Jimmy, Doug the Thug, Doo-Doo Bug Cross, Dirty Deed Breed and motherly Miss Thomas, who make Bud feel like he has finally arrived home. While the grim conditions of the times and the harshness of Bud's circumstances are authentically depicted, Curtis shines on them an aura of hope and

optimism. And even when he sets up a daunting scenario, he makes readers laugh, for example, mopping floors for the rejecting Calloway, Bud pretends the mop is "that underwater boat in the book Momma read to me, Twenty Thousand Leaks Under the Sea." Bud's journey, punctuated by Dickensian twists in plot and enlivened by a host of memorable personalities, will keep readers engrossed from first page to last.

### **Discussion Questions**

(<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides-bud.html>)

1. What makes Bud so self-conscious and protective of his name? What is special about his name?
2. What was your impression of the Amos family, through Bud's description? What impression did they have on Bud?
3. Describe the relationship between Bugs and Bud. Why do you think Bugs was so important to Bud? What made the two alike, and why?
4. Talk about the significance of Bud's experiences at Hooverville. What did Bud remember most about that stop, and why? What



do you think the Hooverville community resembled to Bud?

5. How do you think Bud felt when he missed the train? What were his feelings toward the situation regarding Bugs?

6. Describe Bud and Deza Malone's relationship, and its significance. What did he remember most about her, and their romantic night?

7. Read "Shenandoah", the song the mouth organ man was playing. What does this song signify? Do you think Bud will ever see her again?

8. How does Bud feel towards "Herman E. Calloway" in his first encounter with him? How does he feel towards him after the alarming news? Do his feelings change?

9. Who is Bud's favorite band member, and why do you think that is?

10. Bud seems to really like Miss Thomas, as he refers to her as "the most beautiful woman in the world". Who do you think Miss Thomas resembles?

## **Activities**

Discuss another band name for Bud. Explain your reasoning. Draw a picture of the Dusky Devastators of The Depression, including Bud.

## **Read-Alikes**

Gail Carson Levine, [\*Dave at Night\*](#) (1999)

Everyone knows that Dave Caros is a troublemaker--that's why, when his father dies, no one in his family will take him in. Dave's brother Gideon goes to live with Uncle Jack, but Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys or, as the orphans who live there call it, the Hell Hole for Brats. It's always cold there, the food is terrible, and the younger kids are picked on by bullies. Worst of all, the only thing Dave has left of his father--a wood carving--is stolen by Mr. Bloom, the cruel Superintendent of the orphanage. But there are some good things, too; all the kids in Dave's year look out for one another, and the art teacher thinks Dave has a gift. At night, Dave sneaks out of the orphanage and discovers a whole new world: the rent parties and jazz music of Harlem.

Kate DiCamillo, [\*Because of Winn-Dixie\*](#) (2000)

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni's father sends her to the grocery store to get some macaroni and cheese. In the store, she encounters a very happy dog, causing a big mess and about to get in a lot of trouble. She pretends the dog belongs to her to save him from the pound, naming him after the store (Winn-Dixie) on the spur of the moment. When she brings Winn-Dixie home, Opal's father, a preacher, immediately recognizes him as one of the Less Fortunate, and allows Opal to keep him. That summer, Opal and her father move to Naomi, Florida, where Winn-Dixie helps her to make some unusual new friends.

Peg Kehret, [\*Searching for Candlestick Park\*](#) (1997)  
In the three years since his parents separated, Spencer's father has sent infrequent letters, but no child support payments. Spencer and his mother are forced to leave their rented home in the middle of the night when they cannot pay their rent and they move in with an aunt. His mother insists that he give away his cat Foxey, the only constant thing in his life for three years, because of his cousin's allergies. Spencer is forced to leave his beloved cat Foxey behind, but sneaks away the next night to

find him. Convinced that his father would let him keep Foxey, Spencer runs away to San Francisco where he thinks his father works at Candlestick Park. Along the way he's forced to steal a bike for transportation and food to stave off hunger; meeting his father doesn't help matters since he just sends Spencer back home. But Spencer had met Hank Woodworth, a nice older man, and it's to him that Spencer now turns and, in a strange way, receives the help he needs.

Esmi Raji Codell, [\*Sahara Special\*](#) (2003)

Missing her father who abandoned his family, Sahara spends her time at school writing him letters rather than completing any classwork. Trying to help, the school places Sahara with a special needs teacher, hence the nickname "Sahara Special." When her mother objects to this placement, Sahara repeats fifth grade. Madame Poitier is her new teacher and, with her dislike of bureaucracy and unusual but creative teaching style, she energizes her students. Sahara has always said she's a writer and with Miss Pointy, she's able to prove it.

Polly Horvath, [\*Everything On a Waffle\*](#) (2001)

Primrose's mother sails out into a summer storm in search of her fisherman husband who is late returning home; when neither returns, the townspeople assume they've died and that Primrose is now an orphan. However, Primrose doesn't assume that, even though she is the only one convinced her parents are fine and will return home when they're rescued. Until that happens, however, she first stays with her neighbor Miss Perfidy who bills the Squarps' bank account for baby-sitting Primrose. When Primrose's Uncle Jack comes to town, she moves in with him, though that move proves dangerous when she accidentally loses a little toe and then the tip of her finger. Her guidance counselor Miss Honeycutt, who's perhaps more interested in Uncle Jack than in Primrose, is convinced she's in danger and sends her to stay with older, foster parents. Though Primrose's life seems jumbled, she always has the comfort of visiting Miss Bowzer, who owns the restaurant called The Girl on the Red Swing, where everything is served atop a waffle. In this delightfully funny book there's a recipe at the end of every chapter, including one for waffles!



Ann Arbor District Library