Waiting for the rain

By: Liz Huebsch

This book is about two boys Tengo and Frikki who are friends but live very different lives. Frikki is a white boy, he loves visiting his Uncle Oom Koos’s farm. Tengo is a South African black boy, Tengo wants desperately for whites and blacks to be treated fairly: he hates working while watching the white kids play soccer and having a good time. Tengo also wants an education like Frikki is free to get. Frikki’s uncle, Oom Koos is the boss of Tengo and his family. They all have to work hard all day on his farm. Tengo is a good worker and does everything Oom Koos asks of him. He has a deep need to go on to get an education and really has to beg his mother and father to let him go to Johannesburg to go to school. Oom Koos was very mad. He said the blacks are getting harder to control if they get educated. He needs them to be simple minded so he can rule them on the farm. Tengo faces many challenges in the end when he is on opposite sides of his childhood friend to fight against Apartheid.

Recommendation

At first I didn’t really like this book because it is not the type of book I usually read so this was a bit of a stretch for me. The beginning was really slow I thought then when I got into it I had a better time figuring out the events. It was hard going from one boy’s life to the other, after a while it was hard to remember what happened to what person. I think this book was good for teaching me about the African culture. This book really made think. It is so weird for me to think that some kids can get free school just because of the color of their skin when others would have to pay. It was ironic that the boy who gets the free education did not want it and the boy who would not get a free education really wants one. This book had so many words I did not know like oubass which means "old master” . I had to try to figure it out what they meant. This book had a lot of details. If you like to know everything that is going on around the character then you would like this. I did not, I thought many details could have been left out and the story would have been the same. I did not know anything about Apartheid so this book did teach me about the problem. I could not imagine how I would feel if I had to fight against a friend. If you like historical fiction and want to learn about problems that are real, you would love this book. I wish the book did a better job of telling the young readers like us about what the new terms meant so we could really understand the meaning of the chapters quicker. I do recommend this book to readers if you want to read a book about African life.