



Picture Books

I Lay My Stitches Down: Poems of American Slavery

Cynthia Grady

Michelle Wood, illustrator

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

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This stunning, artful tribute is without a false note. A middle school librarian/quilter seamlessly blends history about the everyday lives of slaves with musical, biblical, and quilting references. Complementary images by an award-winning illustrator—saturated paintings evoking emotions associated with the Underground Railroad, traditional spirituals, and families torn apart—combine to portray lives of desperation that nonetheless glimmered with integrity, and even hope. Ages ten and up.