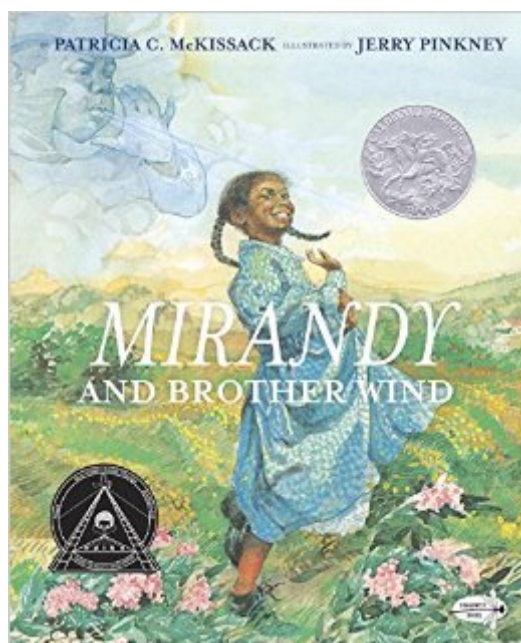


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# Mirandy And Brother Wind (Dragonfly Books)



## Synopsis

“Each page sparkles with life.” —The New York Times Book Review

In this Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Award winning tale, Mirandy is determined to capture the best partner for the junior cakewalk jubilee. And who is the best partner? The wind, of course! Grandmama Beasley says, “Can’t nobody put shackles on Brother Wind, chile. He be special. He be free.” With neighbors up and down Ridgetop suggesting all manner of strategies, and friend Ezel laughing at each foiled one, Mirandy grows ever more determined: she’ll get hold of that Brother Wind yet!

Patricia C. McKissack’s thoroughly engaging tale dances with spirit and rollicking good humor. Complemented by Jerry Pinkney’s rich, eye-catching watercolors of the rural South, here’s one of those rare, rewarding picture books that is sure to be read and enjoyed again and again.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 690L (What’s this?)

Series: Dragonfly Books

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Dragonfly Books; 1st Dragonfly Books Ed edition (January 13, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679883339

ISBN-13: 978-0679883333

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.2 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #418,422 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Children’s Books

> Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism #204

in Books > Children’s Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #274

in Books > Children’s Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

An effort by these two terrific professionals is bound to have many good qualities. This won a Caldecott honor designation, and rightly so. Pinkney’s watercolors are intricate, absorbing, a real pleasure. The multicolored dresses of girls at a dance are especially pretty. I notice he uses two

motifs in his books, chickens and quilts. Both are included here. This book begins with an author's note on the history of the cakewalk in African American culture. The story is based on a photograph of McKissack's grandparents, who won a cakewalk in 1906 before they married. The photo was taken after they won. Mirandy is longing to win the upcoming cakewalk, but she needs a partner. Her friend, Ezel, might fit the bill but doesn't seem too keen on participating. He teases her that he is going with another girl. Mirandy thinks she will win the contest if she can capture Brother Wind, an imaginary character drawn like a bluish white ghost. His grace and speed are what she thinks it will take to finish first. Of course, Mirandy and Ezel end up together, and win the cakewalk with their sassy moves.

Patricia C McKissack has created a marvelous book centering around Mirandy who wants to win the junior cake walk as it's her first time to get to participate. The author has based the story upon her own grandparents who were teenagers around the first decade of the 20th century. McKissack's work garnered her the Coretta Scott King Award and the Caldecott Honor which are considerable praise. Patricia writes the story using a soft southern dialect still heard in parts of the country today. By using this dialect, she has transported the reader back to another era, one that shouldn't be forgotten because it's part of the American culture and history. Mirandy figures out that if she can capture the wind and have him do her bidding, then she can dance as if being carried by him, dress twirling. She visits everyone that she can think of who could possibly tell her how to do the impossible, even going to Mis Poinsettia's cottage who folks have whispered can conjure. Even though Mirandy doesn't believe in conjuring, she hedges all her bets and gives the lady a visit. As the story unfolds, Mirandy believes she's captured the wind and that he owes her a wish. She relies on her clumsy, two left feet friend Ezel to dance with her while the wind carries them on to win the cake walk. I have grown up in Thomas Hart Benton country and have loved and studied his art for decades. The colorful watercolor illustrations by Jerry Pinkney bring Benton's paintings to mind. The color and movement on each page are outstanding. I only wish that Ms. McKissack had written just a few more descriptive pages on the actual dance along with Pinkney's artwork. I think she missed a potential opportunity here. This is not a book for very young children but I believe second and third graders would benefit and get much enjoyment from it.

I purchased this book for my 4 year old. The book is clearly meant for older children. I would suggest the age range is more appropriate for 6-8 year olds.

This story will dance its way into your heart. I like the author's note which tells the origin of the cakewalk. Mirandy wants to find a way to catch Brother Wind so that he can be her partner for the cakewalk. Mirandy talks to different people in the town to get advice on how to accomplish this task. Does she catch the wind? You'll have to read the story to find out.

When I was a little girl, cakewalks were still an item when the school had its local talent show. I doubt many people know what they are these days. But that is a nice way to fill in a bit of recent history for your audience. Reading this book about how Mirandy caught the wind and won the cakewalk took me back to another time. McKissack reveals a special personality in this little girl, and weaves a Southern charm around a special time of life. Pinkney's illustrations capture the warmth of the characters. I love his work and own many children's books with his art. This story has enough magic to appeal to the very young while the dilemma of pre-teen Mirandy will be readily felt by that age group. Adults will delight in the appealing subtleties of the story.

This children's book, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, is about a young and joyous African-American girl who hopes to win a prize at a cake walk by capturing the wind as her partner. The story takes place around 1900 and is a beautiful view of a happy people. The book was a 1989 Caldecott Honor book (i.e., a runner-up to the Medal winner) for best illustrations in a book for children.

So Mirandy wants to win the "cakewalk", a dancing contest. She knows that if she captures Mister Wind she can get him to grant a wish, and that's just what she sets out to do - wish him into dancing with her. There's a very satisfying conclusion here, nothing much to say.

I think that the book is very inspirational that is why I chose five stars. I would like to recommend this book to all my friends and family.

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