

My Name Is James Madison Hemings

Jonah Winter



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My Name Is James Madison Hemings Jonah Winter Here's a powerful historical picture book about the child of founding father Thomas Jefferson and the enslaved Sally Hemings.

In an evocative first-person account accompanied by exquisite artwork, Winter and Widener tell the story of James Madison Hemings's childhood at Monticello, and, in doing so, illuminate the many contradictions in Jefferson's life and legacy. Though Jefferson lived in a mansion, Hemings and his siblings lived in a single room. While Jefferson doted on his white grandchildren, he never showed affection to his enslaved children. Though he kept the Hemings boys from hard field labor—instead sending them to work in the carpentry shop—Jefferson nevertheless listed the children in his "Farm Book" along with the sheep, hogs, and other property. Here is a profound and moving account of one family's history, which is also America's history.

An author's note includes more information about Hemings, Jefferson, and the author's research.

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