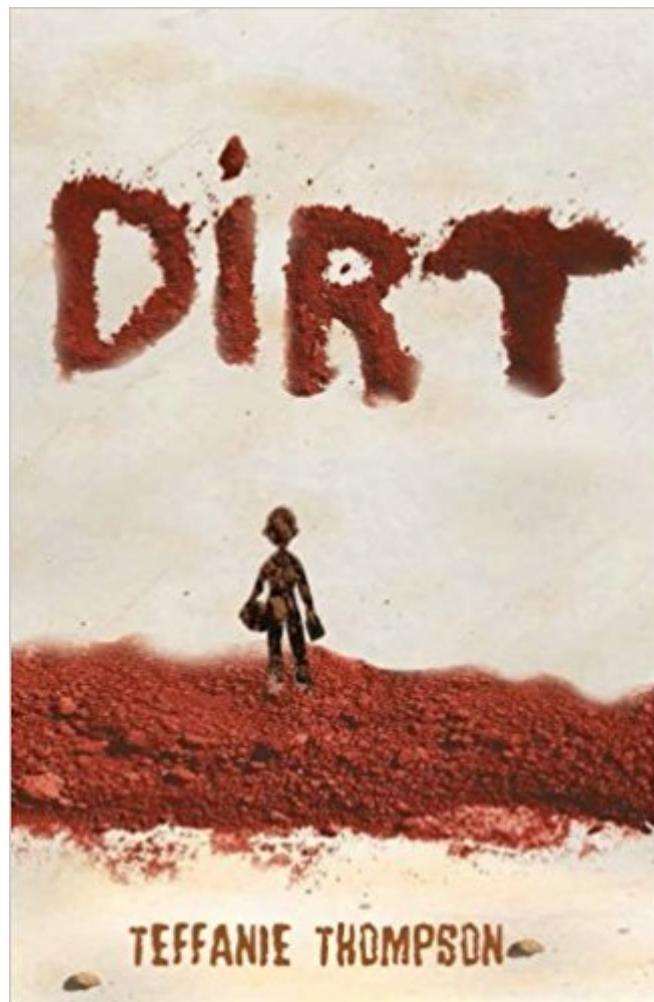


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# Dirt



## **Synopsis**

On the list of things Washington Square would rather be doing, reading ranks right below cleaning his room. In fact, the only thing Washington wants to do on his summer vacation is play basketball, especially with the big tournament right around the corner. But one call from his teacher about his reading grades, and Washington's summer plans are about to be rewritten. Not only have his parents taken away basketball - they're making him read AND travel to East Texas for a family reunion. Could life get any worse? When Washington tires of his family, he grabs a book and goes off to read. But one swirl of dirt transplants Washington from his family's reunion to the past - where he encounters his ancestors and witnesses the brutal punishment of a slave when he is caught reading. After watching slaves long for something he took for granted, Washington just wants to return home. Will he ever see his family again, or will the circle of dirt keep him trapped in the past forever. In this amazing time travel book, Teffanie Thompson takes you on a journey into the past that is guaranteed to have you appreciating the present.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Do you know a young person who hasn't quite fallen in love with reading and books yet? Or do you know a person who already loves to read? Then get this book for them, and also one for yourself. I have had a fear that my children might not develop a love for reading, which I value highly, and it gives me comfort knowing this book exists. 'Dirt' puts a special perspective on the undeniable importance of reading, and the truly magical journey that a book can take you on.

This book was so detailed and fluid that I felt as though I was right there with Washington the whole

way! Both an entertaining and educational read.

“Dirt” by Teffanie Thompson is a young adult novel about Washington Square, a twelve-year-old boy who loves basketball and hates reading. He and his family attend their family reunion where young Washington travels back to the days of slavery and meets his ancestors who risked their lives by learning to read. Teffanie takes readers on a wild ride as Washington comes face-to-face with the freedom and empowerment that reading and literacy have afforded his lineage and the African American community as a whole.

“Dirt” is not only entertaining; it teaches valuable lessons that resonate long after you’ve read the last page. All brown boys and girls should read this book (or read it together as a family!). As parents, writers, leaders, teachers, and mentors, it is our job to ensure that today’s youth achieves their full potential. Books, words, prose, and literature open up a world that our young people should be exposed to, as young Washington discovers in this novel. Teffanie uses “Dirt” to perfectly intermingle the love and appreciation for art, literature, history, and lineage that is sure to spark conversations with your little ones. Get this book for the children in your life and purchase a copy for yourself. “Dirt” encouraged and enriched my soul so imagine how many young people “Dirt” will inspire for years to come. --Jeida K. Storey, contributing author of The Ex Chronicles

Quite an interesting book. "Dirt" tells the story of an average pre-teen boy, named Washington, going through a spiritual crisis and questioning everything that he is doing. All he wants to do is play basketball. Why does he have to read and do homework? Why does he have to go to the family reunion? Why can't he just do whatever he wants to do? Washington is a relatable character and you can sympathize with him and his woes. Throughout the course of the story you will be taken to various interesting locations that will liven up your imaginative senses and creative galore. You will learn new things about the world around you and how it was formed to the way it is now. You will learn about America's past controversial history with slavery and the lives involved with it, and perhaps gain a deeper understanding about the purpose of life and why we do what we do. Interesting topics such as time travel are covered as well and make you wonder what is scientifically possible. "Dirt" is an interesting story about an average American who learns what makes America such a great country to begin with. We can all learn from this story and learn to be grateful for the freedoms that America has blessed us with. We were not always blessed with these wonderful

freedoms and "Dirt" helps us realize this and gratitude this. "Dirt" is an engrossing story from start to finish. Unlike other books that you have to force yourself to read, "Dirt" is the one book that you will actually want to read, and you will be immersed in the world of "Dirt" and its characters from start to finish. Although the ending is a little too meager and bare to satisfy the reader, everything else is enough to overlook the trivial final chapter. A good and enjoyable book definantly worth reading.7/10

Amazing little book. I had no idea when I picked it up it was more for middle school readers but as an adult in her 30s I absolutely loved this book. Washington Square gets into trouble at school for his reading score and instead of playing basketball for the Summer like normal, he will be in Summer School. In addition to that he is forced to read books that he doesn't want to read and also go to a boring family reunion in Texas. While he was at the family reunion, he actually gets bored enough to read and during a hunger pang he eats some red dirt and ends up being transported back to a time where we were beaten or killed for wanting to even touch a book. This book stressed the importance of reading, gave some powerful visuals of History, and why it is so important for us to TRULY know our History. I think this book would be excellent for young black boys who think they don't like to read and especially if they love basketball. Very relatable and original story with a little bit of paranormal. I will be looking for more of this Author's work in the future.

Dirt is a page turner; could not wait to see what was going to happen next. There are many value classification lessons wrapped in this book. The main character, Washington, has qualities of many typical young boys who think sports alone will open doors to a successful life, while dismissing the importance of education. With a taste of genealogy intertwined with modern day facts, Dirt is a smasher! The discussion questions at the end of the book are ideal for engaging young readers at home, in book clubs, or in the classroom.

Fabulous. Intentional. Eloquent. Current. Educational. Flowing. Passionate. Love.

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