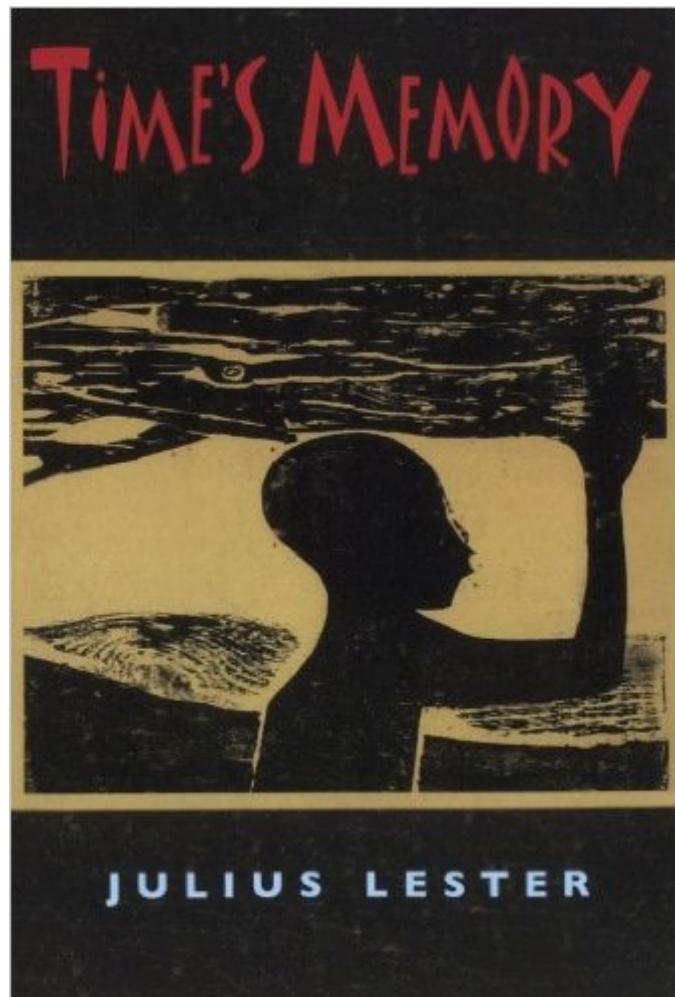


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# Time's Memory



## Synopsis

Amma is the creator god, the master of life and death, and he is worried. His people have always known how to take care of the spirits of the dead — the nyama — so that they don't become destructive forces among the living. But amid the chaos of the African slave trade and the brutality of American slavery, too many of his people are dying and their souls are being ignored in this new land. Amma sends a young man, Ekundayo, to a plantation in Virginia where he becomes a slave on the eve of the Civil War. Amma hopes that Ekundayo will be able to find a way to bring peace to the nyama before it is too late. But Ekundayo can see only sorrow in this land — sorrow in the ownership of people, in the slaves who have been separated from their children and spouses, in the restless spirits of the dead, and in his own forbidden relationship with his master's daughter. How Ekundayo finds a way to bring peace to both the dead and the living makes this an unforgettable journey into the slave experience and Julius Lester's most powerful work to date. *Time's Memory* is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); First Edition edition (March 21, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374375976

ISBN-13: 978-0374375973

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,509,107 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period #1099 in Books > Teens > Romance > Historical #1905 in Books > Teens > Romance > Fantasy

## Customer Reviews

I would have been extremely happy with Julius Lester's latest work, *TIME'S MEMORY*, except for the last chapter of the book. But first, let's praise what was good. *TIME'S MEMORY* is the novel about a spirit sent from a God, born in human flesh to alleviate suffering and bring peace to distressed and disgruntled spirits of those African souls who were so brutally taken from Africa and enslaved in America. The first part of the book is about his first, brief experience. He's not so much "born" as appears magically fully-grown. He is able to bring peace to his 'mother' and the white man

who is protecting them both from the harshness of slavery. (A widower). The second part of the book occurs after Ekundayo's spirit leaves his first body and is transplanted into the almost spiritless body of Nat, a slave foolishly in love with the plantation-owner's daughter. Nat, Nathaniel, Ekundayo from this point are all names given to our young hero almost used interchangeably in the text. He finds himself in a strange body, in love with a woman he's forbidden to have, and enslaved. Nat's father leads an uprising where our young hero is forced to choose between the life of his father and the life of his secret love, Ellen. He shoots his father, but Ellen is murdered anyway by other slaves before he can stop them. His reward? He is the only one who escapes punishment. Ellen's father is broken-hearted and almost spiritless himself. He confesses his life story to Nathaniel. Ellen's death is his fault. You see, Ellen came to him and begged her father to free Nathaniel and help them escape to Canada because she was in love with him. But her father refused. The reader might at first suspect he was opposed because of racial issues, but he elaborates.

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