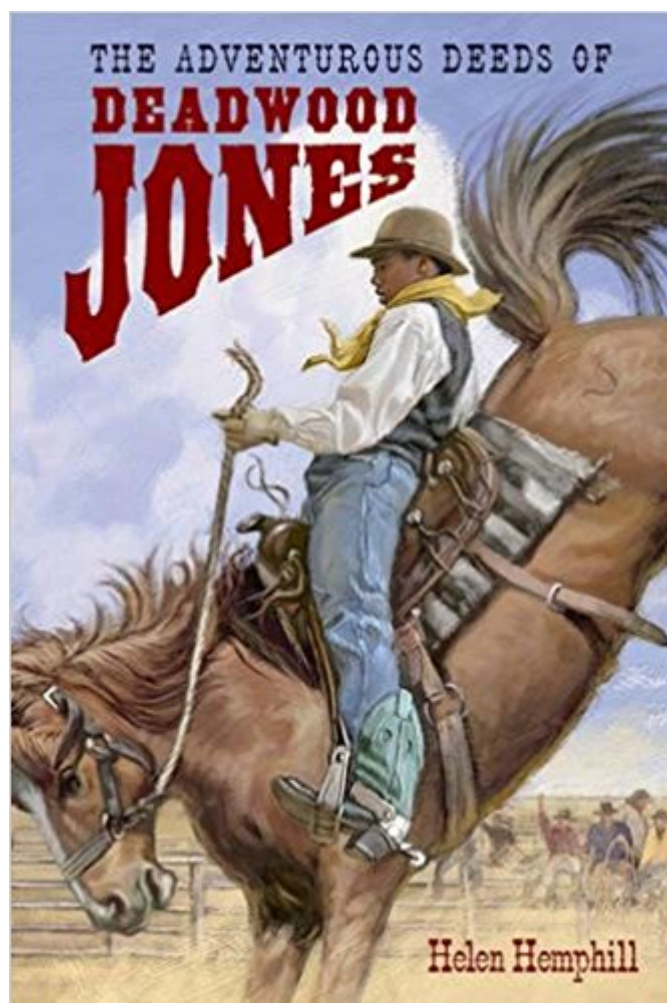


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# Adventurous Deeds Of Deadwood Jones



## Synopsis

Saddle up! We're headed for Deadwood. When Prometheus Jones wins a horse with the raffle ticket he got from Pernie and LaRue Boyd, he knows things won't go smoothly. No way are those two rednecks going to let a black man, even a freeman from the day of his birth, keep that horse. So as soon as things get ugly, he jumps on the horse, pulls his friend Omer up behind him, and heads off. They hook up with a cattle drive out of Texas heading for Deadwood, North Dakota. Prometheus is a fine hand with a horse and not so bad with a gun, and both skills prove useful as the trip north throws every twist and turn imaginable at the young cowpokes. The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones, a Voice of Youth Advocates Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers book, revives the famous "dime novels" about "Deadwood Dick" written by Edward L. Wheeler, which, in turn, were loosely based on the autobiography of the African American cowboy Nat Love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5  
Prometheus Jones, born to a Tennessee slave on the same day Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, has always had good luck, and, at age 13, he wins a horse in a raffle. Before she died, "Mama always told I was the luckiest child on earth. Might ride that horse clear to Texas and never look back." Indeed, Prometheus uses his newly acquired transportation to flee the racist rednecks who accuse him of stealing the raffle ticket. Because of his exceptional skill with horses, he and his sidekick cousin are invited to join a cattle drive to South Dakota. Along the way, they get a taste of the Wild West during the time of Manifest Destiny, Indian

wars, and gold rush prospectors. Inspired by the autobiography of African-American cowboy Nat Love, this notable Western shows a side of cowboy life rarely depicted: the diversity found among one of the few groups at the time that valued a man's talents over the color of his skin. Hemphill's convincing vernacular narration and well-researched, hard-bitten details of life in the South and on the western range give this adventure story surprising depth. The fast-paced plot, punctuated by Prometheus's astonishing wins and losses, will lasso readers' interest. Madeline Walton-Hadlock, San Jose Public Library, CA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Though himself a free man, Prometheus Jones's father was a slave who was sold away from his family. Now 13, Prometheus is determined to find the man he thinks of as "Mr. Jones" and in April 1876 signs aboard a cattle drive that he hopes will ultimately take him to Texas and the reunion he longs for. In the meantime, however, the drive is headed north, through Indian country, bound for Deadwood in the Dakota Territory. Inspired in part by the real-life adventures of Nat Love, arguably the most famous of the nineteenth century's African American cowboys, Hemphill's novel offers a carefully researched look at the often uneasy circumstances of a black teenager on the American frontier. Prometheus is an always sympathetic and engaging character, and the dangers and misadventures he encounters en route to Deadwood make for compelling reading. True, what he finds there may strain some readers' credulity and feels a bit rushed in the bargain—but most will welcome the stirring, action-packed conclusion to Prometheus's quest. Grades 7-12. --Michael Cart

This is an amazing book for everyone, especially for boys in middle school. I usually can never get my kid to read, but this book kept him reading for hours. The first day he got, he stayed up until around 11 PM reading this book. I would not recommend this for kids under middle school. If your child is under middle school, but really wants to read it, I would suggest reading it to them. This is an action packed book, with lots of exciting moments to keep you reading. It has an amazing story line and great characters. It takes place around the 1870s, right after slavery ended. The main character is an African American boy named Prometheus Jones. Him and his younger cousin, and a few other people, have an exciting journey with danger at every turn. This story is guaranteed to keep you reading. I would recommend this to anyone, but especially kids in middle school. Have fun reading!

Year's ago, I used to read lot's of western's, this one's on a par, to many of the type, I read. Full of adventurous deed's. D. S. Jones

Prometheus Jones (gotta love his name!) is a young black boy turned cowboy. After the death of his mother and the luck of winning a one-eyed horse, Prometheus heads west along with his eleven-year-old cousin named Omer. Prometheus has headed to Texas to find the father he never knew. THE ADVENTUROUS DEEDS OF DEADWOOD JONES doesn't hesitate to describe the rough and often dangerous life of the cowboy. The two young cowboys get themselves jobs with a cattle driving company and the adventure begins. There is enough cattle roping, gun slinging, and run-ins with Indians to satisfy the wildest western lover. Readers will learn about the dangers of stampeding cattle, swimming rushing rivers, and facing the possibility of being scalped by the Sioux. Author Helen Hemphill offers something a bit different than the usual YA material. Her description of being a black cowboy in a world of mostly white cattle-drivers provides an interesting historical perspective most books don't include. Also, the fact that the hard-working, courageous characters are quite young compared to modern-day working teens provides not only entertainment, but also a heads-up that today's kids don't have it so bad at all. Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunkie"

Readers will be lassoed into this cowboy novel immediately. Prometheus Jones, an African-American boy who gets the heck out of the South during reconstruction, signs on with his cousin to drive cattle West. Between scrapes with fate and nature, the characters find adventure at every turn whether fighting rivers or protecting their camps in the dark. It's a book that parents and grandparents can feel confident in giving as a gift to boys 10-years-old and up and teachers can choose to help students learn about an era in American history that is less well-known now that Gun Smoke is off the air and John Wayne Westerns are more than a generation old. It's also a fascinating look at something rarely written about for kids -- African American and Hispanic cowboys riding, working, eating and sleeping along side their white counterparts in the late 1800s.

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