

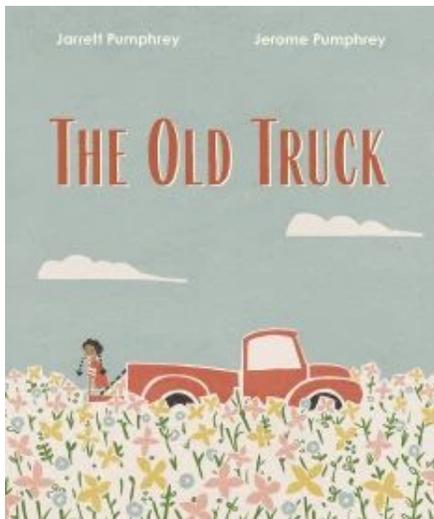


***The Old Truck* written & illustrated by Jarrett and Jerome Pumphrey**



Debut picture book creators and brothers Jarrett Pumphrey (top left) and Jerome Pumphrey (bottom right) are mobilizing young readers' imaginations with **THE OLD TRUCK**. Inspired by the perseverance of the women in their lives -- a great-grandmother who picked cotton and saved enough to purchase her own farm in Louisiana; two grandmothers who worked for the US Postal Service in the segregated South facing racial and gender discrimination; and a mom who raised four boys while helping their father build one of the biggest dental practices in the country -- the Pumphreys set out to create a girl who, through hard work and moxie, turns her aspirations into reality.

Before Steering their careers toward writing and illustrating books for children, Jerome Pumphrey was an illustrator and a graphic designer at The Walt Disney Company; Jarrett Pumphrey is the former CEO of a tech startup. Originally from Houston, they now live in Austin, Texas



A young girl turns her imagination into action in this beautifully crafted and intricately designed debut picture book. When is an old truck something more? On a small, bustling farm, a resilient and steadfast pickup works tirelessly alongside the family that lives there, and becomes a part of the dreams and ambitions of the family's young daughter. After long days and years of hard work leaving the old truck rusting in the weeds, it's time for the girl to roll up her sleeves. Soon she is running her own busy farm, and in the midst of all the repairing and restoring, it may be time to bring her faithful childhood companion back to life. With an eye-catching retro design and

cleverly nuanced illustrations, *The Old Truck* celebrates the rewards of determination and the value of imagination.

**RRS connection to TEKS: Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading**

- *Comprehension skills*
- *Response skills*
- *Author's purpose and craft*
- *Composition I: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.*
- *Composition II: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--genres.*
- *Inquiry and research*

**Relevant Vocabulary:**

- Resilience
- Perseverance
- Hard work
- Dreams
- Hope
- Aspiration
- Determination
- Imagination
- Family

**Pre-reading engagement:**

- What does an author do?
- Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the book?
- What do you think the book will be about?
- What does an illustrator do?
- Look at the artwork. What do you see? How does the artwork make you feel?
- What techniques do you think they used to create these images?
- Read the author's biography together. What did you learn about the brothers?
- Draw a picture of your car, home, or family. What makes it so special?

**While/post reading engagement:**

- What characters make up this family?
- How would you describe the truck? Why?
- What kind of place does she call home?
- What are trucks normally used for?
- But when in the old truck dreamed, what kinds of things did it become?
- Make a prediction! What do you think will happen to the truck now that it's getting older?
- Pay attention to the girl. What changes do you notice about her from the beginning of the story?
- How would you describe the girl? Why?
- Think about a time you've fixed something or helped someone fix something. Turn and tell a friend sitting near you why you fixed it and how you felt after you fixed it.

- Compare the last page of the story to the first page of the story. What's different and what's similar between the two?
- What are your dreams? What steps can you take to making them come true?

**Useful links:**

- Author/Illustrator's video introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMIvY9uKVQ0>
- Norton read aloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJ8gMcEglyw>
- BookPeople interview:  
<https://bookpeopleblog.com/2019/09/13/bookkids-qa-with-jarrett-jerome-pumphrey/>
- NPR:  
<https://www.npr.org/2020/02/09/801206134/ever-wonder-about-that-old-truck-2-brothers-wrote-its-backstory>
- Art making timelapse video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8JqM949F5ZM>