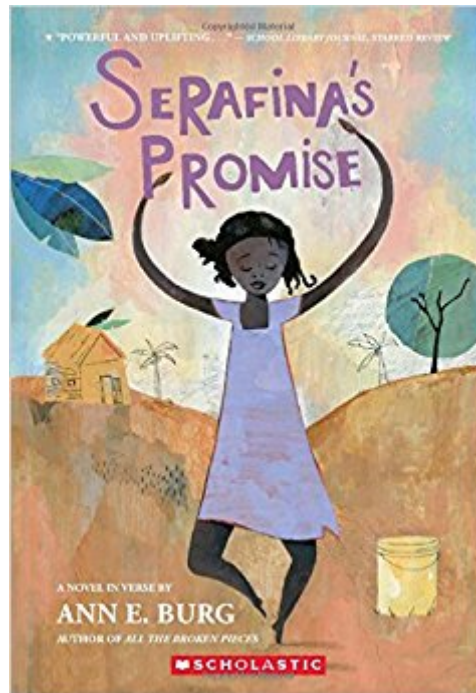




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# Serafina's Promise



## Synopsis

NAACP Image Award winner and ALA Notable, this luminous, celebrated novel in verse is now in paperback. Serafina made a secret promise to go to school and learn to read so she can become a doctor with her best friend, Julie Marie. But following her dream isn't easy—endless chores, little money, and stomach-rumbling hunger all test her resolve. When an earthquake hits and separates Serafina from friends and family, she encounters her biggest test of all. Serafina made a secret promise. Will she survive to keep it?

## Book Information

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press; Reprint edition (July 28, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545535670

ISBN-13: 978-0545535670

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #153,122 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America](#) #470 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry > Stories In Verse](#) #4410 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Serafina is an 11-year-old Haitian struggling to keep her dream of becoming a doctor alive. Living in a desolate mountain village, Serafina toils at her daily chores while planning to attend school in the requisite uniform and shoes. Serafina has a warm family, a true friend in Julie Marie, and an encouraging woman doctor, who all come to support her vision. Then a flood washes away the family home, and the roaring stampede of an earthquake devastates the city of Port-au-Prince, where Serafina's father works and Julie Marie lives. In this novel in verse, the author of the acclaimed *All the Broken Pieces* (2009) uses a lush narrative bouquet, filled with blooms of quiet verse, rhythmic Creole, and Haitian proverbs and sayings that capture life's poignancy and hardships, including a message that Serafina has learned from an early age: "If you want

your eggs to hatch, sit on them yourself. In Burg's lyrical tale, Serafina is a force of nature in her own right who carries her family, friends, and dreams to safe ground. Grades 5-8.

--Gail Bush --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Awards and Nominations for SERAFINA'S PROMISE: Kirkus Best Book of the Year Parents' Choice Gold Award winner School Library Journal Best Books of the Year New York Public Library 100 Books for Giving and Sharing The Herald-Sun Wilde Award for Longer books, Middle grade novel Cybils Awards Finalists, Middle Grade Fiction NAACP Image Awards Outstanding Literary Work-Youth/Teens nominee ALA Notable Book ALA Notable Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies Michigan Great Lakes Great Books Award nominee Bank Street College Children's Book Committee - Best Children's Books of the Year Americas Award, Commended Title

I purchased this book upon returning from Haiti to the US. My hope was to find a book that accurately depicted all that I had seen and experienced there so that I could share it with others beyond my own story. It did not disappoint and I found myself in tears as I read. The free verse is moving and the descriptions of life, education, hope, depravity, and culture transported me back to the beloved island. This story will open your eyes to another world- the reality that many people live in throughout the world, endearing you to its characters, country and theme. Great for adults and youth alike.

I'm using this book in my 6th grade classroom. We are doing a global unit (connecting four different classrooms in three separate continents, all reading the same literature). One of my partner's students is from Haiti and suggested we include this book. What a great addition to our unit. Serafina shows readers how valued education is and what one will do and sacrifice to get an education. For Serafina, education is a privilege, not a right. Our students need to understand how blessed they are that they are handed this ticket while many millions in our world can not say the same. This book is beautifully written and contains many important messages. I would recommend for grades 5 and up. If using in the classroom, be prepared to share background information about environmental issues in Haiti.

Serafina's promise is a great book I bought for my daughter she is a 4th grader. This book belongs to the Sunshine State AR Books part. I widely recommended as a first reading story easy and motivational. Greetingsedithbeli68

Having lived in Haiti during the 70s I could relive being at the sites in Port-au-Prince. The story is moving and the poetry is lovely. The story of this brave and driven young lady is touching. The courage of this struggling population is admirable. Support them in whatever way you chose.

I gave this book 5 stars because I think it really shows you the true meaning of whatever struggle your going through your family and friends will be there for you. And it really shows children some very hard to understand things so yes this book is probably not for kindergartners, but I bet anyone even a little kid would get the meaning and passion of this book.

I purchased this for my daughters school library. There is always a waiting list to check this book out, I purchased two so the waiting list would be shorter. A great read, I recommend for all to read!

The author did a great job of building connection with the characters. I nearly cried a few times reading of the struggles the families endured but in the end the moral of the story was felt and appreciated.

I think that this is a book with wondering mystery and so meaningful I would read it over and over again

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