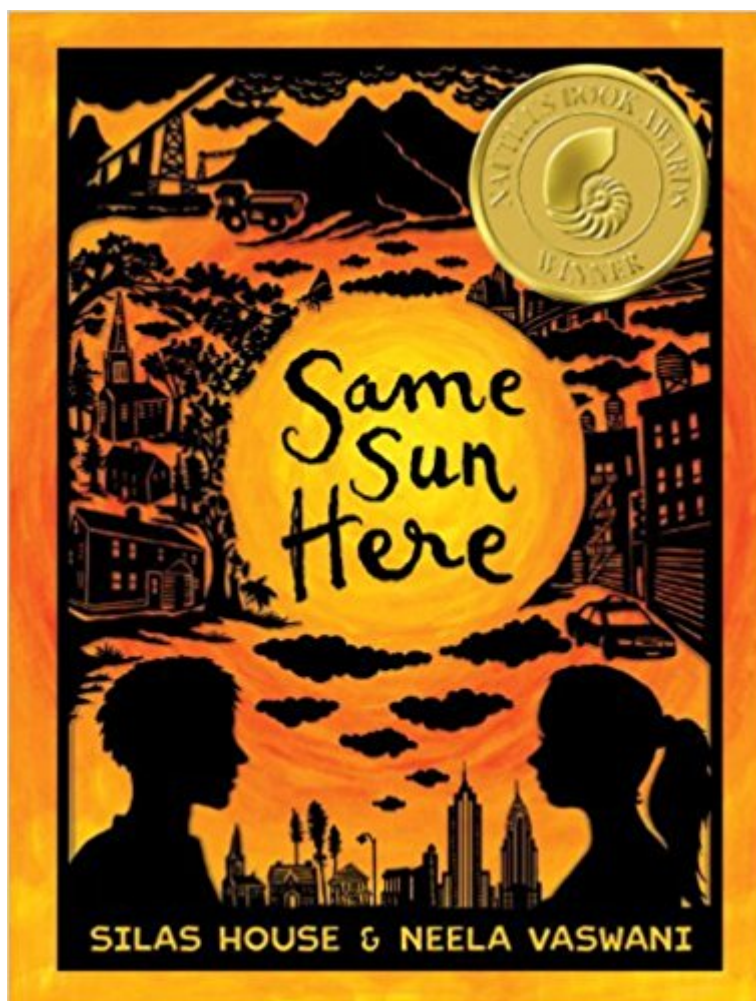


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# Same Sun Here



## Synopsis

In this extraordinary novel in letters, an Indian immigrant girl in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son find strength and perspective by sharing their true selves across the miles. Meena and River have a lot in common: fathers forced to work away from home to make ends meet, grandmothers who mean the world to them, and faithful dogs. But Meena is an Indian immigrant girl living in New York City's Chinatown, while River is a Kentucky coal miner's son. As Meena's family studies for citizenship exams and River's town faces devastating mountaintop removal, this unlikely pair become pen pals, sharing thoughts and, as their camaraderie deepens, discovering common ground in their disparate experiences. With honesty and humor, Meena and River bridge the miles between them, creating a friendship that inspires bravery and defeats cultural misconceptions. Narrated in two voices, each voice distinctly articulated by a separate gifted author, this chronicle of two lives powerfully conveys the great value of being and having a friend and the joys of opening our lives to others who live beneath the same sun.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 890L (What's this?)

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; Reprint edition (August 6, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0763664510

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Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.8 x 7 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #31,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction](#) #147 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Parents](#) #156 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4-7-Meena, a recent immigrant from India, lives in Manhattan's Chinatown with her family.

Through a program arranged by their schools, she becomes a pen pal with River, who lives in rural

Kentucky and is the son of a coal miner. They exchange letters via snail mail and, as a result, learn about each other and themselves. Sharing day-to-day activities, secrets, opinions, and questions, Meena and River start to break down barriers and talk about their lives. Their letters reveal their many similarities and differences. They both have a close relationship with their grandmothers, love dogs, and their fathers work far away in order to provide for their families. They maintain their correspondence as they go through some difficult moments in their lives such as when Meena faces the death of her grandmother in India and when River's town faces environmental concerns related to coal mining. The novel (Candlewick, 2012) is perfectly narrated by authors Silas House (River) and Neela Vaswani (Meena), further invigorating the story with their Southern and Indian accents. This tale about debunking cultural stereotypes, friendship, and finding common ground will resonate with listeners. -Katie Llera, Sayreville Middle School, NJ

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Even better than reading a refreshingly honest story by one talented writer is reading one by two such writers. House and Vaswani alternate between the voices of Meena and River. The two connect as pen pals, and their letters reveal the unusual intersections and the stark contrasts in their lives... Readers will feel confident that their friendship will get them through whatever lies ahead.

•Publishers Weekly (starred review) This tender and breathtakingly honest story about unlikely friendships and finding common ground will captivate readers... In an era when social media permeates every area of our lives, Meena and River's old-fashioned camaraderie through letters feels refreshing and true. Audiences will revel in this lovely story about a boy and girl who are not so different from one another after all.

•School Library Journal (starred review)

This is an excellent book! It consists of letters written between two pen pals. One lives in New York City and the other lives in the eastern part of Kentucky. They learn that they have many ideas in common even though their living situations are different. It is a great book for young people to learn about the troubles and highlights of other young people. There is also an enlightening theme on the environmental concern of "mountain top removal" and how the young people are involved in that. I read it and then immediately sent it to my 11 year old granddaughter. She loved it and has since obtained a pen pal! So many ideas can be shared through letters!!

I am still listening to this book. I am from Appalachia in Kentucky and the accent used by River is

spot on in the narration. I think it is a lovely sharing between two young teens that is both true and enlightening. The inside look at cultures of Appalachia and inner city New York is even more opened with the difficulties of an illegal Indian girl and a Appalachian boy dealing with the first sight of mountain top removal. Silas House has written an excellent tale of truth.

Used this book for a book group for 9-12 year olds. The older kids liked it "okay", the younger ones missed the message entirely. As an adult, I enjoyed it and loved the format of letters back and forth. This would be a great book to use for a Social Studies Class to talk about the difference in cultures and how people who come to the US do not see it with the same eyes as a native.

I absolutely loved this book. This is definitely a tween-teenager's kind of book, adults wouldn't get it right away but adolescents would. I gave all stars because you can feel the emotions the author is trying to get you to feel. Loved it and I would recommend to everyone!

The voices of the authors come through clear and honestly. You feel as if you are experiencing both the hills and NY city. The relationships ring true and I think this book does a wonderful job showing the similarities and the differences of two very different cultures. I think all middle school students would benefit from reading this book.

This book has such a magical, warm feel to it. Listening to the audio book version while reading along with the book is such a rich experience. I would recommend this book for those looking for a book that uses characters to teach that people are really the same, despite their individual cultures.

A wonderful read that touches on life as an immigrant in New York City as well as the complex challenges faced by the Appalachian part of our country. So many lessons spoken in the clear first person voice of a childhood pen pal. Loved it.

Same Sun Here was a remarkable story about two very different Americans. I highly recommend it to parents and teachers of students age eleven and up. The story is narrated through letters of 2 pre-teens who write "snail mail" letters to each other from the hills of Kentucky to Chinatown in Manhattan.

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