

**Anya Fontes**

## **Artifact Reflection: Bud, Not Buddy Quilt**

**Q**uietly my students sat and listened as we went on a chapter-by-chapter journey through Bud Caldwell's life as an orphaned boy of ten during The Great Depression, before the Civil Rights Movement, in a country torn apart by poverty, in a time before people were judged by the content of their character, but by the color of their skin. We traveled with him from the Home, to the Amoses', to the library and mission, and then on his walking journey to Grand Rapids from Flint.

**U**rgently they raised their hands to share their ideas for the quilt squares. Pictures danced in their heads of the concepts they were learning and they shared their vision about how to illustrate each chapter. The minutest details explained and remembered.

**I**saw true enthusiasm and excitement about this novel. I heard their understanding and answered questions about concepts they didn't understand. The students were entertained, engrossed, and actively involved in creating our masterpiece. They had ownership and they wanted to let everyone know what they had learned.

**L**essons they learned from Bud about the depression, about being a young African American during one of the most trying times in American history, about loss, and about one door closing always meaning another door opening. No one despaired; they knew that Bud would persevere. Lessons were learned through laughter and tears.

**T**oo bad the book had to come to an end. We enjoyed meeting Bud, and Bugs, and Deza Malone. We had a great ride to Grand Rapids with Lefty Lewis and especially enjoyed the detour to the Sleet's where we met Mrs. Sleet, Scott, and Kim. And finally we enjoyed getting to know the members of the band, The Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!!; Herman E. Calloway, Miss Thomas, Mr. Jimmy, the Thug, Doo Doo Bug, Steady Eddie, and Dirty Deed. Our cast of characters and the antics we encountered are now a part of us, they changed who we are and made us better understand how far we have come, but best of all, these characters are now a part of us and will long be remembered.