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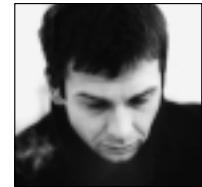
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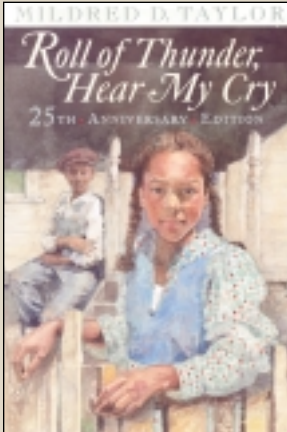
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AUTHOR PROFILE

# Mildred D. Taylor

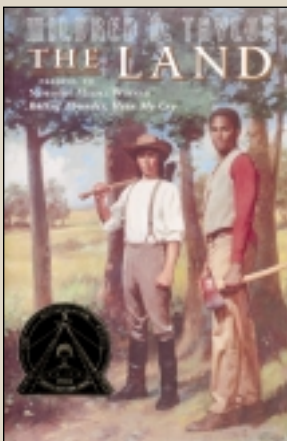
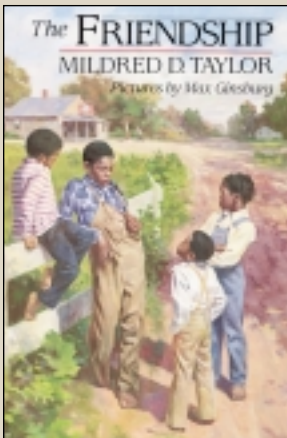


**Mildred D. Taylor** was born in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1943, the great-granddaughter of a former slave who was the son of an African-Indian woman and a white landowner. She spent her childhood in Toledo, Ohio, but returned to the South each year with her family. She attended Toledo's public schools in the 1950s and graduated from the University of Toledo in 1965, after which she spent two years with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia. After returning to the United States, she earned a master's degree in journalism at the University of Colorado and, as a member of the Black Student Alliance, was instrumental in creating a Black Studies Program at the university. At present, she devotes most of her time to writing and raising her daughter on their ranch in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

The state of Mississippi recently welcomed Taylor back to Mississippi with an official proclamation from the governor and the legislature that the state observe April 2, 2004, as "Mildred D. Taylor Day."

## BOOKS BY MILDRED D. TAYLOR

- 1975 *Song of the Trees*
- 1976 *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
- 1981 *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*
- 1987 *The Friendship*
- 1987 *The Gold Cadillac*
- 1990 *The Road to Memphis*
- 1990 *Mississippi Bridge*
- 1995 *The Well: David's Story*
- 2001 *The Land*



"Part of Mildred Taylor's genius is that she manages to paint full individual human beings and simultaneously paint a communal story. The communal story would not hold readers' interest if the individual characters were not engaging. Page after page, episode after episode, her writing stirs the passions of her readers. This is important in terms of each book's success in literary terms--technically, her writing is flawless, employing pacing, suspense, dialogue, and other tools to their utmost potential. But her mastery as a writer is important, too, in terms of how she has contributed to changing the landscape of American children's literature. Her black characters, full of integrity, contradictions, intelligence, confusions, and passions, help to eradicate the 'all-white world of children's books' and the many stereotypes of black people that once predominated this world." —Dianne Johnson, Nominating Statement for the NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature, August 2002



Mildred D. Taylor