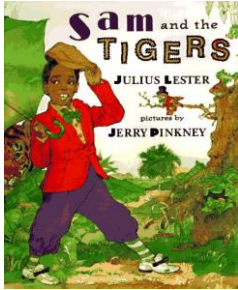


2016 Phoenix Picture Book Honor Book

Julius Lester for *Sam and the Tigers*, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Dial Books, 1996)



Sam and the Tigers is a venturesome collaboration: a re-telling of Little Black Sambo that abrogates with the past in language and image. Lester's narrator's flair for language play is matched by young Sam's flamboyant sense for finery. Pinkney's illustrations stretch across the pages in splendid detail. The landscape is alive and expressive, with faces in the trees and critters observing the exchanges between Sam and the five formidable tigers. The full drama of the story plays out in word and gesture, as sound and movement are evoked in fluid combination. This

book is the best kind of audacious.