



The Cay and Related Readings (Literature Connections)

Theodore Taylor

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From Wikipedia: Theodore Taylor (June 24, 1921, Statesville, North Carolina, USA - October 26, 2006, Laguna Beach, California, USA) was an American author of more than 50 fiction and non-fiction books for young adult readers, including *The Cay*, *The Weirdo* (winner of the 1992 Edgar Award for Best Young Adult Mystery), *Ice Drift*, *Timothy of the Cay*, *The Bomb*, *Sniper*, and *Rogue Wave*.^[1] ~~~ *The Cay*, Taylor's story of a racially prejudiced white boy stranded with a black man, took only three weeks to complete, and has become perhaps the most beloved of his young adult novels. It has seen worldwide sales in the millions. Taylor based the character of the boy in his book on a childhood playmate. "The one thing I remembered about [him] was that his mother had taught him to hate black people and to hate them with a passion," Taylor once told a reporter from the Los Angeles Times. In the book, the boy sheds his racist views as he learns to admire and respect the black man who rescues him from the ocean. For a short period of time *The Cay* was banned^[citation needed] and was classified as racist. ~~~ *The Cay*, winner of 11 literary awards, including the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, "...of which I'm the proudest, since the book was deemed worthy of being on a shelf with *Alice In Wonderland*...", was a Universal film presentation starring James Earl Jones. Now in print in 14 foreign countries, the story of young "Phe-leep" and old "Timothy" has passed 4,000,000 copies in publication, worldwide. ~~~ *The Maldonado Miracle* and *The Teetoncay Trilogy*, chronicling the remote, quaint Outer Banks of North Carolina, quickly followed the success of *The Cay*. Among his titles are *Sniper*, *Maria*, *The Hostage*, *The Weirdo*, winner of the 1992 Edgar Allen Poe Award; *Sweet Friday Island*, another suspense story. ~~~ In autumn, 1993, *Timothy Of The Cay*, prequel-sequel to the original tale of survival and prejudice was published by Harcourt Brace.

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