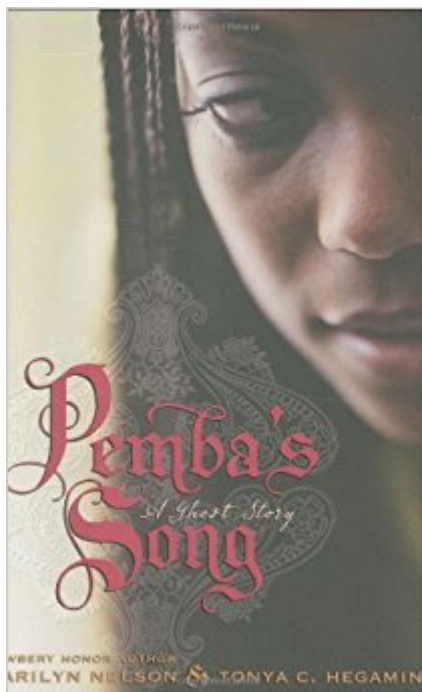


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# Pemba's Song: A Ghost Story



## Synopsis

A Newbery Honor winner collaborates with a new writer in this hip-hop-inspired historical thriller.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 730L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 109 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054502076X

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,838,149 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > Teens > Art, Music & Photography > Music > Popular #137 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Music > Popular #673 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical

Age Range: 12 - 15 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 7 "Pemba, an African-American teen, doesn't want to make the move from Brooklyn to Connecticut no matter how rosy a picture her mother tries to paint. As soon as she sees her new home, she knows something isn't right. At first, she thinks she's imagining things, like the strange mirror that reflects the image of an 18th-century girl. But then the blackouts begin. During them Pemba sees Phyllys, a slave who lived in the house centuries before. Something horrible happened to her all those years ago and now she needs Pemba's help. Working with Abraham, an eccentric old man who lives nearby, Pemba must uncover the girl's story to finally put her to rest. Told through alternating chapters, poetry, and journal entries, this title is sure to appeal to fans of ghost stories as well as historical fiction. There are few ghost stories featuring African-American teens and fewer still that are as well written and interesting as this one. With its brevity, it will make an excellent choice for reluctant readers as well." Ginny Collier, Dekalb County Public Library, Decatur, GA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Written in shifting voices and styles, this vivid, collaborative novella tells a supernatural story of a

young girl's connection with history. Fourteen-year-old African American Pemba is furious when her mother decides to move from Brooklyn to "Nowhere" Connecticut, where her cell phone can't even pick up a freaking signal. More upsetting are her strange dreams about a young black girl that begin on the first night in the new house. Abraham, an elderly local who welcomes Pemba and her mother, invites Pemba to help him research African Americans in the town's history. As Pemba's strange visions increase, she confides in Abraham, who helps her accept that she is connecting with an enslaved girl who lived in Pemba's new home in the eighteenth century. Pemba's first-person contemporary narrative combines with verse passages written in the ghost's heartrending voice. The paranormal transitions that enable Pemba to witness the ghost's world feel contrived and jarringly abrupt. Most affecting are passages of hip-hop poetry, written in Pemba's voice, that powerfully translate her deepening sense of African American history and her own strength. Grades 7-10. --Gillian Engberg

What a wonderful ghost story! Pemba's lyrics and visions, her connection with the ghost in the old New England house she and her mother have come to live in, are just exquisite. I love the connection she makes with the past; I love how slippery reality can be as Pemba slips into visions and memories that aren't hers- and I love that she knows she's not crazy- that she perseveres in finding out the house's secret, no matter what. I just love this book!

This is a re-read! So good. Love sharing it with my students!!!

BROUGHT THIS FOR SOMEONE ELSE

Purchased the book for my 10 year old to take an AR test on (in school). She told me she liked the book so much that she read half of it in one day. May be appropriate for a 9 year old given the length of the book.

It's so hard for me to pick books that my 13 year old twin granddaughters will enjoy, but this was a winner. Ghost stories seem to hit the right buttons and this one was a quick and fun read for them.

This was a very enjoyable "ghost story". This is not one of those scary ghost stories to keep you up all night, however, this story is a bit of a mystery into the life of a slave girl from the 1790's. Told partly through poetry from the mind of a modern teenage girl who makes a connection with the

ghost of a young slave girl. The story was engaging & I remained interested in the main character's journey to find out the truth about what happened to the slave girl named Phyllis. I would recommend this middle grade story for anyone who enjoys a good ghost story or mystery.

Pemba's Song is a story about a girl named Pemba who discovers a special gift: She sees ghosts. In the beginning of the book we are introduced to Pemba and her mother. Pemba is upset with her mom, because she is moving her away from Brooklyn and her friends to a small town in Connecticut where her mom was offered a great job and an opportunity for a fresh start. Pemba and her mother meet a strange man named Abraham who lives at the local library. She soon befriends this man and helps him with some local research. She soon discovers that the little town and the new house (or should I say old house) they live in holds lots of secrets and one of them is the ghost of a slave girl named Phyllis who lived in the house in the late 1700's. Phyllis begins to visit Pemba in supernatural ways, asking her to help her bring justice to two unsolved murders that occurred there.... I recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good ghost story. At the end of the book we learn that the writers of the book indeed met a man by the name of Abraham who inspired this book and its history. So I thought that was pretty cool ^-^

This story is a good story. It's about a girl named Pemba. Her father passes away and she needs to move to Connecticut. She is very angry at her mother because she separated her friends from her and that's not fair to her and her friends. They move in to a new house (old house). This guy named Abraham, who lives in the library, comes and welcomes them into the new town. Then he tries to invite Pemba to go to the library and research about the African-American culture, and people and how they were separated and things like that. Soon Pemba finds out that she has a strength in seeing ghosts. In the library she finds out that the house that she's living in is an old house and that it contains many secrets. One of those secrets is a ghost living in her house.

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