

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: March 1, 2010

Virginia Hamilton: Speeches, Essays, and Conversations.

Adoff, Arnold (Editor) and Cook, Kacy (Editor) and Cook, Kacy (Author)

Feb 2010. 368 p. Scholastic/Blue Sky, hardcover, \$29.99. (9780439271936). 813.

A groundbreaking writer of children's fiction, folktales, biography, and picture books, Hamilton won every major award, and much of this book is made up of her acceptance speeches, including those for the Newbery, Hans Christian Andersen, and Coretta Scott King awards, as well as her Arbuthnot and Zena Sutherland lectures. Aimed at a general audience, the tone is both scholarly and informal, as she talks about her career as a woman and a black writer in America and the form and content of her work, in general and with particular titles, whether it is the meticulous historical research she conducted or her discussion of magic realism in her fiction. Many speeches include introductions by children's literature scholars and editors, who add perspective to her lasting influence, while family members fill in biographical details. A must for librarians, teachers, and children's literature students, this will also appeal to YAs who love her books. The extensive back matter includes full bibliographies.

— *Hazel Rochman*