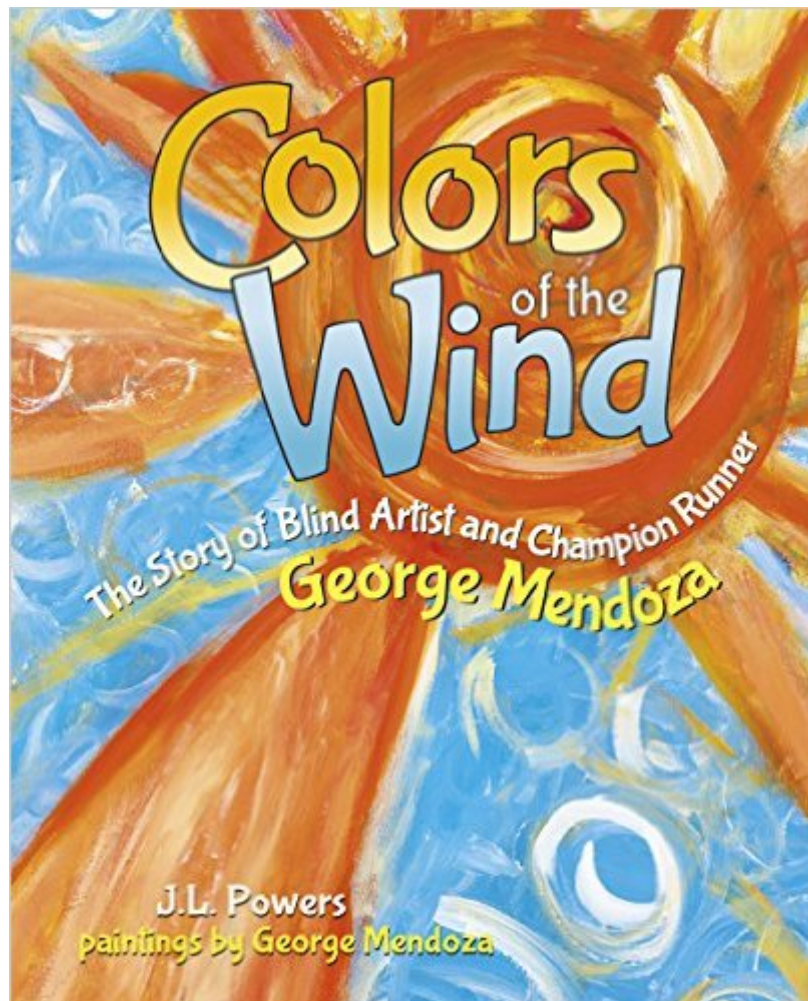


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Colors Of The Wind: The Story Of Blind Artist And Champion Runner George Mendoza



Synopsis

George was one of those kids. You know, the kind that never stays still. And then one day, the doctor said he was going blind. Did that slow George down? Not for a single second. In fact, he was so fast, he went on to break a world record for blind runners. And now he is breaking more barriers because ironically, George Mendoza, blind painter, paints what he sees. George Mendoza started going blind at age 15 from a degenerative eye disease. It wasn't the sudden onset of blindness that many people experience. George lost his central vision and started seeing things that weren't there--eyes floating in the air, extraordinary colors, objects multiplied and reflected back. George describes this condition as having "kaleidoscope eyes." He triumphed over his blindness by setting the world record in the mile for blind runners, and later competing in both the 1980 and 1984 Olympics for the Disabled. Now a full-time artist, Mendoza's collection of paintings, also titled Colors of the Wind, is a National Smithsonian Affiliates traveling exhibit.

Book Information

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

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Customer Reviews

COLORS OF THE WINDCOLORS OF THE WIND is a picture-book biography that tells the true story about George Mendoza, an Olympic champion runner and award-winning artist who is blind. The startling illustrations are paintings created by this blind artist, George Mendoza. J.L. Powers, the author of this book, tells us:"To me, it's an amazing story of someone who has persisted and found such an incredible gift in his weakness. He broke a world record as a blind runner and went to

the Olympics twice, and later started painting these bold paintings that he cannot see. "COLORS OF THE WIND is illustrated with Mendoza's paintings as well as simple line drawings by Hayley Morgan-Saunders. Besides being a champion athlete and artist, Mendoza is also the founder of Wise Tree Foundation, a nonprofit corporation that promotes the arts. A collection of Mendoza's colorful and unusual paintings is a National Smithsonian Affiliates traveling exhibition. Mendoza, a Las Cruces native, started going blind at age 15 from a degenerative eye disease. He often describes his condition as "kaleidoscope eyes," losing his central vision but seeing things that were not there, extraordinary colors or objects multiplied and reflected back. But as a child, George did not want to be an artist or runner; he wanted to be a basketball player. He was good, until as a teen-ager, he tried shooting baskets, but he kept missing. Instead of a basket, he saw an enormous eye floating in the air. As George lost more of his sight, he became discouraged. Whenever he tripped over something that everybody else could see, he yelled at himself. When a priest suggested, "Nobody else sees the way you do. You should paint what you see." But George did not want to paint.

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