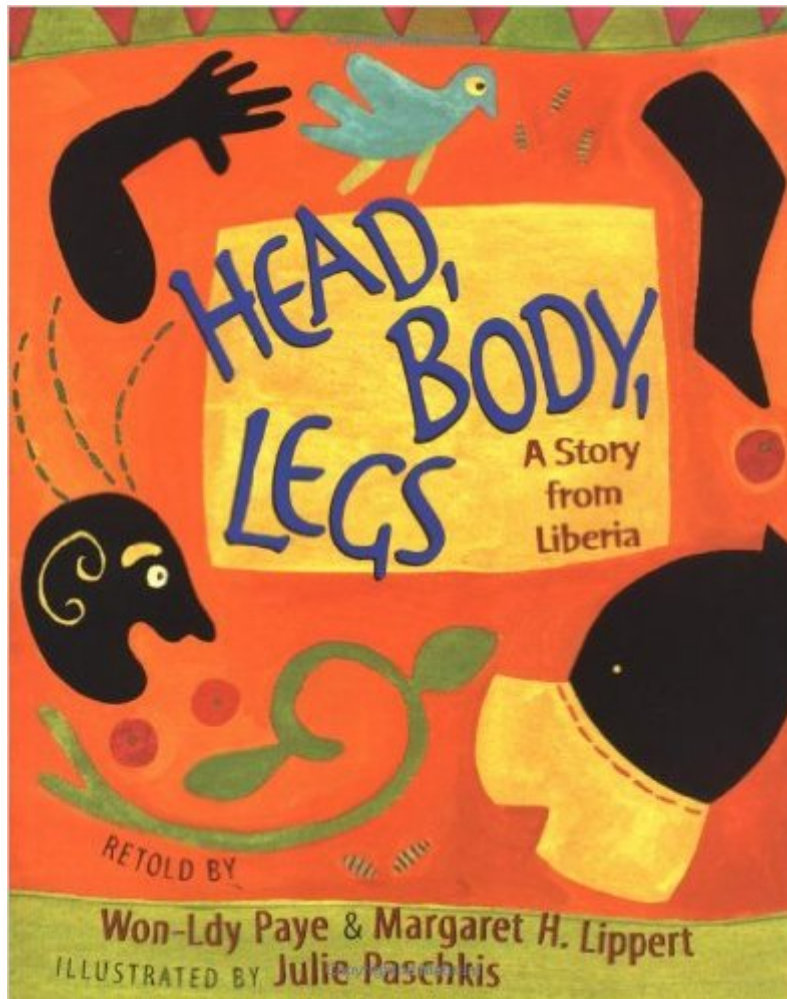


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# Head, Body, Legs: A Story From Liberia



## Synopsis

A magical retelling of a creation story from Liberia. "Long ago, Head was all by himself. He had no legs, no arms, no body. He rolled everywhere." Head is all alone. Body bounces along, Arms swing about, and Legs stand around. They can't do much by themselves, so they try to join together. But how? Should Head attach to the belly button? Should Legs stand on Arms? If only they can work together, everything will be perfect. This vibrant, joyous retelling of a traditional Liberian creation story shows how much can be accomplished with a little cooperation.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 220L (What's this?)

Series: Books for Young Readers

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Henry Holt and Co. (BYR); 1st edition (May 1, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805065709

ISBN-13: 978-0805065701

Product Dimensions: 8.2 x 0.5 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,155,161 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #1905 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #6678 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

I love this book and so does my son! Winner! Before we read the book, we look at a map to see where the book was written. Then we read the book together. There are so many great topics that come from this story.

This Liberian story immediately became one of the top 5 favourites of my sons (ages 3 and 5). Though short, it is a very funny, warm-hearted story about how the main body parts - head, body, legs and arms - met and decided to join together as one body. The story is of course a metaphor for

the benefits of working together, and unity. The only drawback is that it is short - I would rather have bought a book with three stories like this. This is often the case with children's books - you get only one short story per book, which makes little sense, other than to maximize profit for the publisher and the authors.

"Long ago, head was all by himself." So begins Won-Ldy Paye's and Margaret Lippert's marvelous retelling of this traditional Liberian creation story. Head bounced along the ground eating only what his tongue could reach, but at night he dreamed of cherries, high in a tree. One day he meets Arms, hanging from the tree. "Let's get together. I have eyes to see, and you have hands for picking things to eat." Arms attached themselves to Head. "Hands picked cherries, and Head ate every single one." Soon body came bouncing along, and Head with Arms attached, joined Body at the belly button, and they swam across the river to a mango tree. But Arms could not stretch high enough to pick the delicious-looking mangoes. Standing near the tree were two legs. "Join us," said Head. "I have eyes. I can show you where to go, and you can help us reach those mangoes." Head, Arms, Legs, and Body began to arrange and rearrange themselves until they got it right. "Everyone slid into place. Legs stood on tiptoe. Body straightened out. Arms stretched up, and the hands picked a mango. Head took a bite..." Mr Paye's, and Ms Lippert's simple, playful text is joyous and engaging, perfect for read alouds and story times, and complemented by Julie Paschkis' bold and vibrant illustrations. Together, word and art bring the magical oral tradition of storytelling to life with wit and humor. Perfect for youngsters 3-7, Head, Body, Legs is a winner.

This is a whimsical story - Kids enjoy the images and funny situations - and it invites worthwhile conversation about cooperation.

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