



A Dream Of Freedom (Booklist Editor's Choice. Books for Youth (Awards))

By Diane Mcwhorter

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A stirring history of the Civil Rights movement in America by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of CARRY ME HOME.

In this history of the modern Civil Rights movement, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Diane McWhorter focuses on the monumental events that occurred between 1954 (the year of Brown versus the Board of Education) and 1968 (the year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated). Beginning with an overview of the movement since the end of the Civil War, McWhorter also discusses such events as the 1956 MTGS bus boycott, the 1961 Freedom Rides, and the 1963 demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama, among others.

The author uses interviews she conducted personally with

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grade 5-9—Motivated by her naive, youthful acceptance of racial injustice as a white, privileged child in Birmingham, AL, McWhorter directs her compelling retrospective at readers who likewise may not realize that history swirls around them. After a prologue that describes the emergence and impact of segregation in the United States, chapters follow chronologically, highlighting pivotal events, people, successes, and failures of "The Movement." Against the backdrop of the constitutional and moral struggle between the White House and Southern politicians, the author recounts the flamboyant resilience of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, the battered determination of student leader John Lewis, the nonviolent leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the sacrificial commitment of the Freedom Riders. She also explores J. Edgar Hoover's covert manipulation of the FBI, the power struggle between the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the shift from nonviolence to Black Power and urban race riots, and the national political focus on the Vietnam War. Protests, marches, boycotts, and infamous tragedies are sequenced and analyzed as catalysts that fueled the movement. Collections that already own Ellen Levine's *Freedom's Children* (Putnam, 1993) and James Haskins's *Freedom Rides* (Hyperion, 1995) will be greatly enhanced by this title. Numerous archival photos add a powerful visual dimension to the text. This engaging, stirring narrative offers a balanced presentation of the heroism and idealism as well as the political turmoil surrounding and within the civil rights movement.—Gerry Larson, *Durham School of the Arts, NC*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Gr. 6-8. McWhorter's critically acclaimed adult book *Carry Me Home* (2002) focused on the civil rights movement in Birmingham. In this compelling but challenging children's book, McWhorter tackles the national civil rights movement from *Brown v. the Board of Education* to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. In 1963 McWhorter was a sixth-grader at a segregated Birmingham school, and throughout, this account is both factual and personal. She discusses her feelings as a white child in the South, and she focuses in on the many ways in which both white and black children were involved in the movement: the brave young people who desegregated schools throughout the South, the 1,500 Birmingham students who protested and were attacked by dogs and doused by fire hoses, and white students protesting integration. In the book's most wrenching photograph, two young white children stare at the camera as a black man hangs, lynched, in the background. The breadth and depth of McWhorter's book is exemplary. In addition to learning about King and Rosa Parks, children will read of SNCC, Fred Shuttlesworth, Bayard Rustin, and Autherine Lucy. Some of the more arcane issues such as disagreements between civil rights organizations are beyond the audience, and, unfortunately, there are no source notes. But tempering the complex social and historical information is an open design laden with photographs and a childcentric viewpoint that brings this important history close. *John Green*

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About the Author

Diane McWhorter is a long-time contributor to "The New York Times" and the op-ed page of USA TODAY", "among other national publications. Her young adult history of the civil rights movement is *A Dream of Freedom*". She is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and now lives in New York City.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ana Lopez:

This A Dream Of Freedom (Booklist Editor's Choice. Books for Youth (Awards)) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. This kind of A Dream Of Freedom (Booklist Editor's Choice. Books for Youth (Awards)) without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't be worry A Dream Of Freedom (Booklist Editor's Choice. Books for Youth (Awards)) can bring whenever you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even cell phone. This A Dream Of Freedom (Booklist Editor's Choice. Books for Youth (Awards)) having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

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