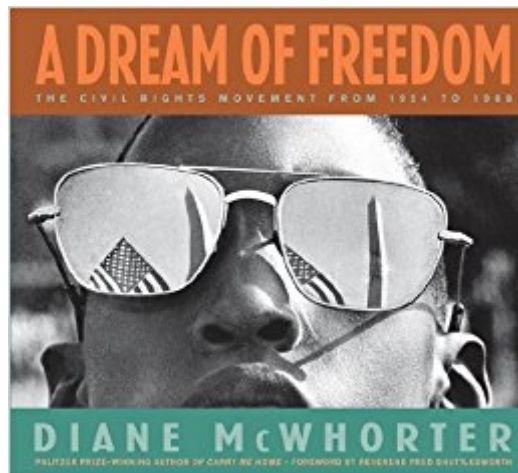




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# A Dream Of Freedom (Booklist Editor's Choice. Books For Youth (Awards))



## Synopsis

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

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1220L (What's this?)

Series: Booklist Editor's Choice. Books for Youth (Awards)

Hardcover: 160 pages

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Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 0.6 x 9.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #803,911 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Modern](#) #559 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#) #1018 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

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 Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

**\*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.

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This is a true masterpiece and obligatory reading for anyone who wants to understand the realities of The South in the 1950's and 1960's. Be prepared to be alarmed by the horrors of southern racism, especially in the pre-1960's.

Good product, good service!

Freedom's Children: is a nice addition to this collection. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in African American history. Great visuals.

Great

In *A Dream Of Freedom*, Diane McWhorter gives the 9-12 year old reader a concise history of the American civil rights movement between the years 1954-1968. McWhorter covered some of this material in her earlier civil rights chronicle, *Carry Me Home* which won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction. *A Dream of Freedom* opens with a rousing foreword by the legendary Rev Fred Shuttlesworth who is one of the central figures in the story that follows. The book focuses on the turbulent period between 1954-1968 when the growing civil rights movement battled institutional segregation, violence and bloodshed. McWhorter's account is both disturbing and inspirational. She is an excellent storyteller with a straightforward and unflinching delivery. She closes with a poignant epilogue and bibliography that encourages further research. This book is well organized and illustrated with over 120 photographs and collages. *A Dream of Freedom* should be in every school and public library.

We were the first to check this book out at our library, the day after Rosa Parks died. What a lucky find! We homeschool, and this has been the PERFECT book to fully educate our 8 and 11 year old daughters about the Civil Rights Movement. The chapters are short enough for a kid to digest, and yet manage to completely cover the subject at hand, and the language keeps them interested. You won't find a better book on this subject material for juveniles.

Snap shots of the Civil Rights movement. Each year's events explained in narrative detail, with great pictures. A personal touch of Diane Mcworter, a white child growing up right next door to all these events and oblivious to what was happening. It has taken her years of research to see the

truth that was swept under the rug of the white community.

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