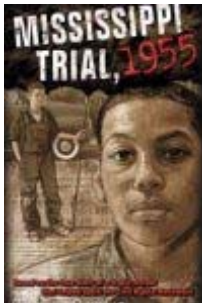


Fiction

[Mississippi Trial, 1955](#) by Chris Crowe (T Crowe)



The real-life murder of 14 year-old Emmett Till is at the center of this historical novel by Chris Crowe. 16 year-old Hiram Hillburn has returned to his father's Mississippi hometown to spend the summer with his ailing grandfather. While there, he meets Emmett, a black teenager from Chicago who, like Hiram, is unaccustomed to the racist violence of the south. When Emmett is brutally murdered, Hiram suspects his childhood acquaintance R.C. Rydell is involved, but the truth may be even harder to swallow. Also see Crowe's nonfiction account of Till's murder, [Getting Away with Murder](#) (364.1523 C8861)

[The Watsons go to Birmingham, 1963](#) by Christopher Paul Curtis (J Curtis)

Kenny Watson is the middle child in a working class Flint, Michigan family. When older brother Byron becomes increasingly prone to making trouble, their parents decide to spend the summer with their grandmother in Birmingham, Alabama, in the hope that a slower pace and a change of scenery will do him good. Curtis skillfully places this narrative of family love and strength against the backdrop of the racial tensions in Birmingham in 1963, including the infamous bombing of a Sunday school that killed four little girls.

[Fire from the Rock](#) by Sharon Draper (T Draper)

Little Rock, Arkansas was a volatile place in 1957, and Sylvia finds herself in the middle of the controversy over integration when she is chosen as one of the first black students to attend Central High. As she faces increasing tension and even violence toward herself and her family, Sylvia must decide if she's willing to face the dangers of being a pioneer for the Civil Rights movement.

[The Darkest Corner](#) by Mildred Barger Herschler (T Herschler)

Teddy Sanders comes of age in a small Mississippi town in the 1960s. Although her father is a bank president and prominent Klansman, Teddy begins to participate in the civil rights movement with her African American friends.

[Devil on My Heels](#) by Joyce McDonald (T McDonald)

Racial tension and bigotry run high in 1950s Benevolence, Florida, where 15 year-old Dove Alderman is caught up in a dispute between her father and the workers in his orange grove. The African American and Mexican migrant pickers are working under appalling conditions, and as they begin to protest, the KKK begins to hassle them.

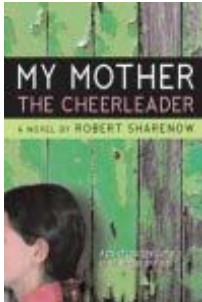


[A Summer of Kings](#) by Han Nolan (T Nolan)

It's the summer of 1963, and 14 year-old Esther feels her life is about to change when her wealthy family offers a room in their Westchester mansion to King Roy Johnson. King Roy is a fugitive from Alabama who has been accused of killing a white,

and a follower of Malcolm X. Esther eagerly befriends him in spite of his anger and mistrust, and learns of the injustices he has endured.

My Mother the Cheerleader by Robert Sharenow (T Sharenow)



13 year-old Louise spends her days helping her alcoholic mother run their boarding house in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. Her mother Pauline has pulled her out of school as a reaction to the forced integration of the school in 1960. Pauline has also joined the "Cheerleaders," a group of local women who taunt and threaten first grader Ruby Bridges as she walks to school every day. Both Louise and Pauline find their lives and their perspectives changed when New Yorker Morgan Miller arrives in town. Family secrets are revealed as Louise and her mother begin to see the brutality and racism of their community more clearly.

Nonfiction

Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Lines of the Civil Rights Movement by Ann Bausum (J 323.0922 B3287)

A fascinating look at the courage and determination of young civil rights activists, this book follows the lives of two college students from vastly different backgrounds. John Lewis was a black seminarian from the south, while Jim Zwerg was a white Wisconsin native who became involved with the Freedom Riders during a student exchange in Nashville. The book traces their backgrounds, their often frightening and violent experiences during the Freedom rides, and the long range effects of their courageous acts.

Race: A History Beyond Black and White by Marc Aronson (305.8009 Ar675)

Aronson takes young adults on a fascinating trip through the history of race, examining everything from the epic of Gilgamesh to the Civil Rights Era to "acting black" or "acting white" in the twenty-first century. It's well-researched, and Aronson does just what he suggests his readers do-question and examine the underlying assumptions we have about race and racism.

Black Like Me by John Howard Griffin (305.896 G8752)

Journalist Griffin embarked on a ground-breaking social experiment in 1959. Hoping to gain perspective on the black experience in America, he medically darkens his skin and spends six weeks traveling through the Deep South as a black man. His account of that experience has become an American classic.



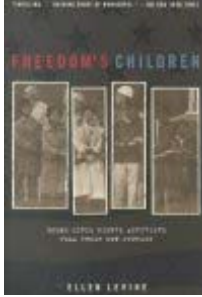
A Wreath for Emmet Till by Marilyn Nelson (811 N335)

Nelson offers a heroic crown of sonnets in memorial for Till, the victim of a brutal lynching that helped drive the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

King: A Comic Book Biography by Ho Che Anderson (921 King)

Anderson's graphic biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. was ten years in the making, and presents the Civil Rights figure as both heroic and human. It traces King's life from his early activism in college through his assassination.

Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories by Ellen Levine (973.0496)



Levine shares the stories of thirty people who were active in the Civil Rights movement as children or teenagers in the South. From pioneers in school integration, to Freedom Riders, to voter registration activists, these accounts are astonishing reports of courage in the face of violence and hatred.