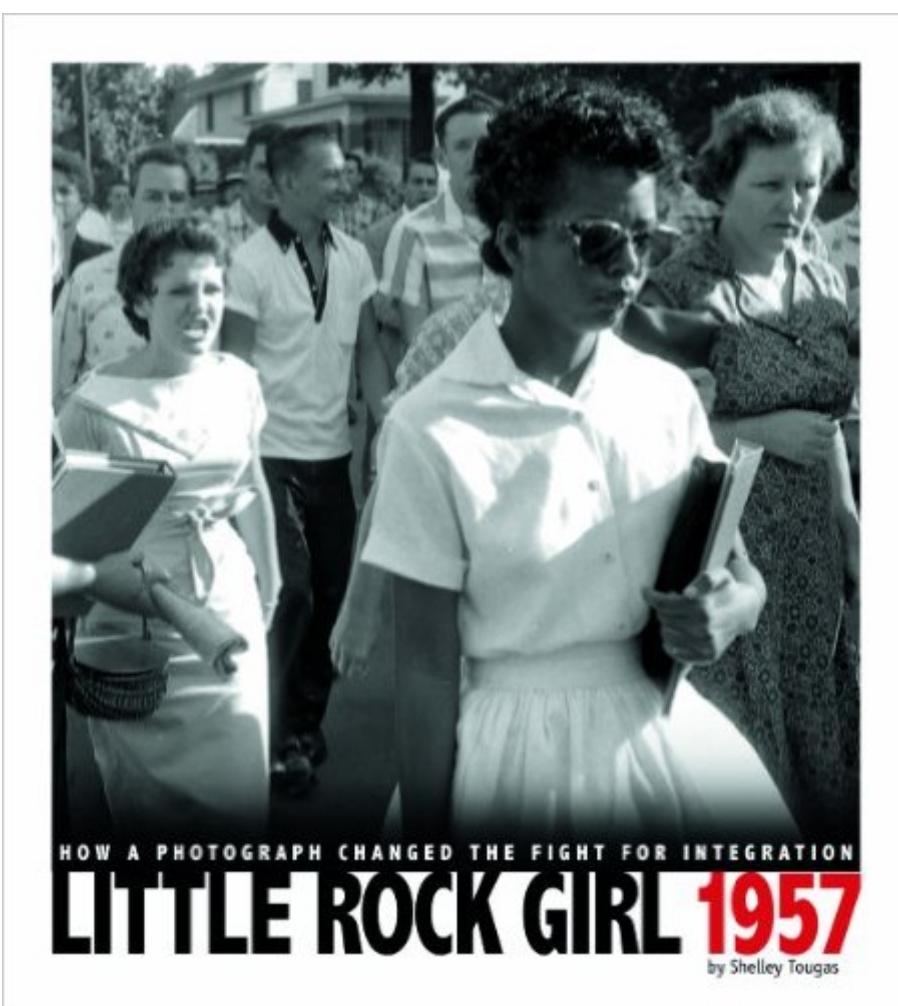


The book was found

Little Rock Girl 1957: How A Photograph Changed The Fight For Integration (Captured History)



Synopsis

Nine African American students made history when they defied a governor and integrated an Arkansas high school in 1957. It was the photo of one of the nine trying to enter the school a young girl being taunted, harassed and threatened by an angry mob that grabbed the world's attention and kept its disapproving gaze on Little Rock, Arkansas. In defiance of a federal court order, Governor Orval Faubus called in the National Guard to prevent the students from entering all white Central High School. The plan had been for the students to meet and go to school as a group on September 4, 1957. But one student, Elizabeth didn't, didn't hear of the plan and tried to enter the school alone. A chilling photo by newspaper photographer Will Counts captured the sneering expression of a girl in the mob and made history. Years later Counts snapped another photo, this one of the same two girls, now grownup, reconciling in front of Central High School.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1010L (What's this?)

Series: Captured History

Paperback: 64 pages

Publisher: Compass Point Books (August 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0756545129

ISBN-13: 978-0756545123

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (14 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,231 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 in Books > Children's Books > Arts, Music & Photography > Photography #11 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > General #27 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

On September 4, 1957, nine black students were to meet at the home of the local head of the NAACP and, together with a police escort, they were to head to Little Rock's Central High School in an attempt to integrate the school. Unfortunately, Elizabeth Eckhorn's parents didn't own a phone so

she didn't get the message. She arrived at the school first and alone and was immediately surrounded by an angry white mob. Will Counts, a local photographer, was able to capture this event - a picture of a beautiful black teenager clutching her books to her chest, a stoic expression on her face. Directly behind her, among that sea of angry white faces, is a white girl about the same age as Elizabeth, her face twisted with hatred. This photo would eventually win Counts a Pulitzer Prize nomination but, more importantly, it forced a nation and the world to look into the true and ugly face of racism. Author Shelley Tougas reveals this important period in America's history through photographs, extensive research, a comprehensive timeline, and interviews. She discusses what led up to this event - the Jim Crow laws which allowed segregation, the legal fight to end it, and the words and reactions of the people who risked so much for change. She also reveals what eventually happened to each of the Little Rock Nine both when they were finally able to enter the school (although not for long) and later in their lives. She tells the story with amazing objectivity. She never allows her own opinions to colour the narrative and, in so doing, she makes the book that much more powerful. This is a very short book (just 64 pages) aimed at children 8-14 but it is a book that everyone should read. It is, in many ways shocking and horrible but it is also hopeful.

This review is a first for The Dirty Lowdown, which is befitting since the subject of this book was also a first, although infinitely more courageous and important. This book, Little Rock Girl 1957, meant for readers ages eight through about fourteen. That makes this the first "JUVENILE" book we have reviewed here. That said, I know an awful lot of adults that could benefit from a refresher course in American History. On September 4, 1957, less than two weeks from today, in Little Rock, Arkansas nine African American students defied their governor and started the fight to integrate Little Rock's Central High School. Now known as The Little Rock Nine, those children faced both physical, verbal and emotional abuse few of us will ever face. And, with few exceptions, could not and would not find protection or support in adults, teachers, their fellow students or the community. The fight was not won that day, and it wasn't won even that year or necessarily for years to come. Perhaps that fight still hasn't come to an end. First, the book. The author, Shelley Marie Tougas set out to write a contemporary history aimed at an audience of fifth through eighth graders depicting an era that is every bit as important as many other milestones in American History. I think she achieved both goals. She researched the book very well, finding many photographs and interviews that haven't seen the light of day in decades. The interviews and recollections of the children who were on the front line that day and in days to come, are especially poignant. Further, Ms. Tougas did not color the narrative with her own feelings and emotions. This is well documented history that an eight year

old could easily digest and an adult could profit from as well.

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