



BOOK RESUME: THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM-1963

BOOK SYNOPSIS

During one of the most important times in the civil rights movement, one unforgettable family goes on a road trip in this Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honoree, from author Christopher Paul Curtis, recipient of the Coretta Scott King–Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Title: The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963

Author: Christopher Paul Curtis

Imprint: Yearling

Publisher: Random House Children's Books

On sale date: September 1, 1995

ISBN: 9780385321754, 9780440414124

Format: Hardcover and Paperback

Age Range*: 8-12

Grade Range: Gr 5-8
(Recommended by School Library Journal)

When the Watson family—ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron—sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "An exceptional first novel."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "Superb . . . a warmly memorable evocation of an African American family."—*The Horn Book*, starred review

★ "Ribald humor . . . and a totally believable child's view of the world will make this book an instant hit."—*School Library Journal*, starred review

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- WINNER - Newbery Honor Book
- WINNER - Coretta Scott King Author Honor
- WINNER - ALA Best Books for Young Adults
- WINNER - ALA Notable Children's Book
- WINNER - California Young Reader Medal
- WINNER - New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award
- WINNER - Massachusetts Children's Book Master List
- WINNER - Maine Student Book Master List
- NOMINEE - Illinois Rebecca Caudill Young Readers Award
- WINNER - Arkansas Charlie May Simon Master List
- WINNER - Texas Lone Star Reading List
- WINNER - TimeOutNewYorkKids.com 50 Best Books for Kids

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*Publisher suggested age range covers the wide range of readers publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate range for their diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[The Watsons Go To Birmingham - 1963 Discussion Guide](#)

[The Watsons Go To Birmingham -1963 Banned Books Club Guide](#)

[NPR Backseat Book Club Interview](#)

[Telling Stories: A Conversation with Author Christopher Paul Curtis](#)

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