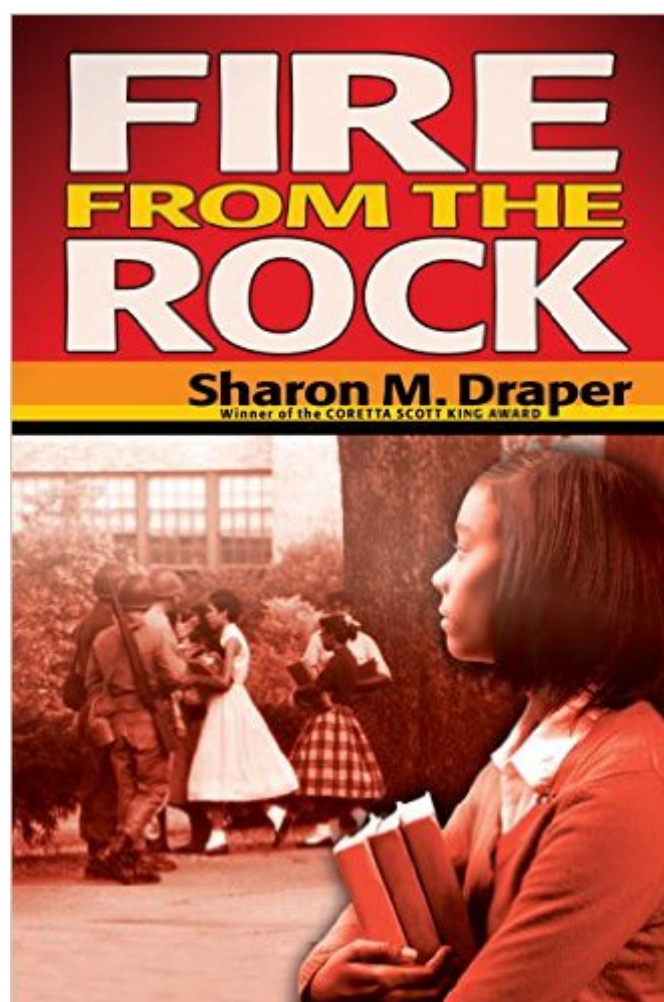


The book was found

Fire From The Rock



Synopsis

Sylvia is shocked and confused when she is asked to be one of the first black students to attend Central High School, which is scheduled to be integrated in the fall of 1957, whether people like it or not. Before Sylvia makes her final decision, smoldering racial tension in the town ignites into flame. When the smoke clears, she sees clearly that nothing is going to stop the change from coming. It is up to her generation to make it happen, in as many different ways as there are colors in the world.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0830 (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (September 18, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 014241199X

ISBN-13: 978-0142411995

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #70,538 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#) #47 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism](#) #96 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Being that we were having Mrs. Sharon Draper herself come to our school as a guest speaker, I chose *Fire From the Rock* to read to all the 8th graders before her arrival. I can't tell you how riveting and realistic this story is. The references were chilling. The people were real. The plot was daunting. Our students loved this book. Many asked to read it again. What is the reality of 250 8th graders wanting to read a historical fiction book twice? If you want to give your students an inside peek to what was really going on during the Civil Rights Movement, this is an excellent book. Bravo Sharon Draper!

I picked this book up by choice. I found it a little hard to pick up, but once I started reading it there

was not a problem. This book is about a girl, Sylvia, who is an African American in 1957. In the book you follow her through her ninth grade year of junior high. She has to deal with a lot of racial tension. She is also offered the opportunity to be one of the first African American students integrated into a white high school. I found that this book did a great job portraying all the events and feelings of this time. Something that I did not like about this book is how it is seemingly uneventful. There are bits and pieces of events, but really not a lot happens. Despite the fact that it is uneventful, the book was very easy to read and enjoyable.

As a reading teacher, I am constantly looking for exciting young adult literature to expose my students to. Sharon Draper is my go to author many times. I was first introduced to her by her Hazelwood Trilogy. With "Fire from the Rock", Ms. Draper has elevated herself from an author who appeals to young adult readers by writing topics that they can relate to, to an author who also teaches them history in a way that they will actually pay attention to and get something out of it. In "Fire from the Rock", readers hear a first person as well as third person account of the struggle for segregation. This novel illustrates with such emotional beauty what it was like for the people in Little Rock who were personally experiencing the drama that most of America was watching unfold from the comfort and safety of their homes. A must read for parents and teenagers, and a perfect opportunity for a history lesson for a generation who seem to live with the mindset that the past should stay in the past.

Fire from the Rock is another of Sharon Draper's great historical fiction works for young adults. Set in Little Rock, AK in 1957 we learn the story of Sylvia Patterson, a young teen who has been selected as one of the few students to integrate into a white high school under legislation spurred by the Brown vs. Board of Education decision. While Sylvia struggles to pride herself on her successes that landed her in this position, she encounters racist members of the community who constantly berate and torment her. Meanwhile, Sylvia's friendship with Rachel Zucker, a Jewish girl, and her family strengthens. This relationship allowed for Draper to reference the persecution that Jews faced during the '50s; the juxtaposition of discrimination among the two races is described well and leads way to great classroom discussion. Backed with tons of historical-cultural facts and references, the overall plot also encompasses relatable themes for adolescents such as young love and ideological conflicts between teens and their parents. Based on the efforts to integrate African American children around the country into traditionally white schools, Sylvia's story details the trials and triumphs associated with desegregation efforts and offers an interesting perspective on the

issue. A must read!

Sharon Draper does an excellent job with "Fire from the Rock" depicting the horrifying times of Civil Rights. Sylvia has the opportunity to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas which is both exhilarating and frightening at the same time. We follow her internal struggle throughout the entire novel. Draper does an excellent job teaching the history of that era and this would be an excellent novel to expose to students. I would definitely use this novel in the classroom for middle school students and high school students.

I love these kinds .of books black history is my thing I loved this book it's apart of my book play list ! I can't wait to read more oh and my fave part was Reggie and the poems I love poetry I right some myself (:

Sharon Draper writes a compelling work of historical fiction that focuses on Little Rock, Arkansas at the time of integration in 1957. Her story is of a young girl who is chosen to represent the black community when Central High School is forced to integrate. The novel is well written and Draper does a tremendous job of synthesizing historical facts into a book that focuses on the pressures and fears that an adolescent would face as the biggest decision of their life awaited them. By inventing a character instead of using one of the "Little Rock 9," Draper is able to tell a new story that focuses on a student who decided not to integrate, even though she had the chance. The book demonstrates what African American students faced when deciding whether or not to be a part of the special few chosen to break-down racial barriers.

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