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Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963

Taylor Bitton

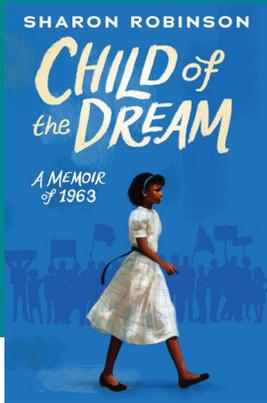
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Book Review

Child of the Dream: A Memoir of 1963

Author

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Reviewer

Taylor Bitton

Rating

Excellent

Level

Intermediate

Pages

227

Year

2019

ISBN

9781338282801

Publisher

Scholastic Press

It's January 1963, and Sharon Robinson has just turned thirteen years old. As the daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, she has many more opportunities than most people of her race at that time. She saw her first concert live at the Apollo theater, she lives in a wealthy neighborhood, and her family has many connections to major figures, like Martin Luther King Jr. But Sharon's life is far from perfect. She's not totally removed from racial prejudice at school, and her family is experiencing some turmoil as her brother Jackie Jr. rebels and struggles to find his place in the world. As Sharon watches the civil rights movement progress, she finds her role in her family and in the historic fight for equality.

Robinson does a fantastic job of conveying her emotions in this autobiographical novel. Based on her journals and life events, Sharon's struggle to find her place in a larger context is very relatable and timely. Describing her life at home, in school, and in terms of the civil rights movement allows readers to get to know her on several levels, engrossing them in the text and adding depth to the story. Photos from Sharon's childhood are placed in the middle of the book, allowing readers to more fully immerse themselves in history. This is an entertaining novel that teaches valuable lessons about history from the perspective of someone who lived it.