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The Watsons Go To Birmingham--1963 (Newbery Honor Book)



Synopsis

The Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honoree about the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan "from Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *Bud, Not Buddy*, a Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott Award Winner. Enter the hilarious world of ten-year-old Kenny and his family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. There's Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron, who's thirteen and an "official juvenile delinquent." When Byron gets to be too much trouble, they head South to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up. AN ALA TOP TEN BEST BOOK AN ALA NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK AN IRA YOUNG ADULT'S CHOICE A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW BEST BOOK NAMED TO MULTIPLE STATE AWARD LISTS "Every so often a book becomes a modern classic almost as soon as it arrives on bookshelves. That happened in the mid-'90s when Christopher Paul Curtis released his first book, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* " 1963." "NPR

Book Information

Series: Newbery Honor Book

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Customer Reviews

The Watsons Go to Birmingham -1963 By: Christopher Paul Curtis If you're looking for a great book that you never want to put down, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* is perfect. It is written by Christopher Paul Curtis. It's full of adventure, comedy, and tragedy. This book is based on the life of a black family in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement. The book is narrated by one of the young family members, Kenny. The family goes through many problems with Kenny's big brother Byron.

Byron thinks he's so cool and thinks he can do whatever he wants including dying his hair, play with matches, and he does other stuff like kissing himself in the mirror. Kenny also has a mom who is very strict and a dad who is always positive. One more family member is Joetta. She is Kenny's younger sister and is very caring. One of the things we really enjoyed about this book was, that the author really expresses the character's characteristics. The theme of this story is based on the Civil Rights Movement and family. The book goes through problems in both of these categories. Such as, bombings during the Civil Rights Movement, problems with Byron and Kenny, and so many more usual, and some unusual, problems. Many of the Watson family members change during the story. An example of this is, Byron changed from a disobedient child, to a mature, young man full of respect. The theme of this book really expresses the authors feelings on family and the Civil Rights Movement. Christopher Paul Curtis is a great author and uses many different "secrets" to make his writing as good as it is. First of all, he tells things like they are. There isn't any fantasy in this book and you can relate to the story. The Watsons are just like any family. They go through difficult times and good times.

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