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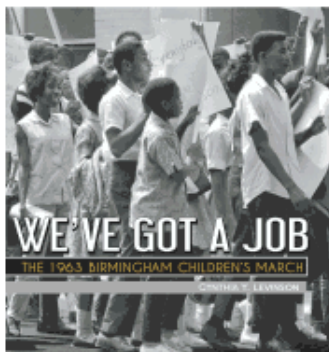
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★ **We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March**

Cynthia Y. Levinson. Peachtree, \$19.95 (176p) ISBN 978-1-56145-627-7



This chronicle of a pivotal chapter of the civil rights movement weaves together the stories of four black children in Birmingham, Ala., who were among some 4,000 who boycotted school to participate in a march to protest segregation. Before recounting that event, during which almost 2,500 young people were arrested and jailed, first-time author Levinson opens with intimate profiles of the four spotlighted children (drawn from interviews she conducted with each of them), along with descriptions of Birmingham's racist laws, corrupt politicians, antiblack sentiment—and activists' efforts to fight all of the above.

Readers also get an up-close view of such leaders as Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, who founded the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights; Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who advocated a nonviolent response; and James Bevel, a preacher who rallied the city's

children and teens. Yet the most compelling component is Levinson's dramatic re-creation of the courageous children's crusade and the change it helped bring about in the face of widespread prejudice and brutality. Powerful period photos and topical sidebars heighten the story's impact. Ages 10–up. Agent: Erin Murphy, Erin Murphy Literary Agency. (Feb.)

Reviewed on: 01/02/2012

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- [Cynthia Levinson](#)
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