

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

Issue: February 1, 2012

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

Levinson, Cynthia Y. (Author)

Feb 2012. 176 p. Peachtree, hardcover, \$19.95. (9781561456277). 323.1196.

Even with the many fine books out there about the role of young people in the Civil Rights era, this highly readable photo-essay will hold YA readers with its focus on four young people who participated in the Birmingham Children's March, set against the big picture of the fight against segregation and the roles of adults. At nine, Audrey Hendricks was the youngest of nearly 4000 black children who marched, protested, and sang their way to jail, and she had the support of her church, teachers, and middle-class parents. Washington Booker lived in poverty in the projects; for him the police were the ultimate terror. Smart, academic James Stewart chose not to do sit-ins, but marching felt right. Arnetta Streeter went to young activists' training. Important adult leaders on all sides are included in the story, from Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Reverend Shuttlesworth to Bull Connor, and Levinson points out not just the individuals with extreme viewpoints, but also the "moderates" who kept quiet about the insulting "separate but equal" policies. The format will hook readers with spacious type, boxed quotes, and large black-and-white photos on almost every double-page spread, from the horrifying view of the Klan marching with children to the young protestors waiting to be arrested. A fascinating look at a rarely covered event for both curriculum and personal interest. Chapter notes, a timeline, and a bibliography conclude.

— *Hazel Rochman*