

Lions of Little Rock

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The book *Lions of Little Rock* takes place back in 1958. Marlee is a white 12-year-old girl, who lives in a time of segregation (separation of something). In this case, it was the separation of racial groups, whites, and blacks. Marlee is a quiet girl who loves math. Many think she is mute, until the new girl at school, Liz becomes Marlee's friend, which changes everything. With each other's strengths, they help one another grow. Liz helps Marlee talk more and be brave, Marlee helps Liz not talk at the wrong times and stay out of trouble, and a lot more. However, Marlee feels everything goes downhill when Liz is caught claiming she is white, to get a better education at a white school. Liz is a Negro, someone of Black origin. This is called passing.

Liz is sent to another school as race-mixing was not tolerated back then, and Marlee is left alone. Liz and Marlee mean so much to each other. Marlee doesn't want to lose Liz. They meet up in private, talk on the phone, although it just isn't fair. Together, they try to make their town of Little Rock a more integrated place, all while facing the life-threatening situations that are a result of their secret friendship.

This book takes on a hard topic of the past, segregation. However, it is important to know about this and make sure we aren't in the same situation again. Ages 9-13 will find this an interesting book. *Lions of Little Rock* allows you to see in perspective of how hard it was for many people to live in a time like this.

Many efforts like the Civil Rights Movement played a huge role and ended discrimination. As of today, our society is more welcoming and diverse as a result of those who were brave enough to take a stand, like Marlee, and do what is right.

Recommended Titles:

- The Paper Cowboy
- The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had
- The Jigsaw Jungle