

**The Children's
March: Stories
from the
Birmingham
Children's
Crusade**

**Grade Levels
4-6**

Play Along! and Write Your Own Song

In our video *Sing With Us! "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around"*, we talked about how songs have stories behind them! In this activity you will get to see two photographs and, choosing one of them, you can begin to write your own poem, song, or creative writing piece.

We will guide you to really look at the photograph so you can begin to describe to people what it would have been like to be there as a freedom fighter. Let's get started!

Definitions to know

Sit-in

Any organized protest in which a group of people peacefully occupy and refuse to leave a space until their demands are met. During the Civil Rights Movement in the United States, Black and White students, activists, and demonstrators participated in sit-ins all across the country to protest the practice of segregation. Their efforts led to many private businesses integrating.

Example

Sixty students staged a sit-in outside the principal's office.

Freedom Riders

Freedom Riders were groups of African American and White activists who took part in bus trips through the American South in 1961 to protest segregated bus terminals. These groups were non-violent and were often attacked as they traveled through the South.

Example

Freedom Riders courageously tried to end segregation by riding buses in the South and bringing awareness of the racism they encountered to the American people.

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Photo 1

A May 28, 1963, sit-in demonstration at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Jackson, Miss., turned violent when angry white people poured sugar, ketchup and mustard over the heads of demonstrators, from left, John Salter, Joan Trumpauer and Anne Moody. Fred Blackwell/Associated Press

The Sit-in

As you look at the photograph, imagine if you were participating in the sit-in. You are a young peaceful activist taking a stand against segregation. How do you feel? What do you see? Here are some questions to get you started. As you answer them, see what calls out to you as a good storytelling hook for your audience. How would you get others to know how it feels to be at the lunch counter?

Questions

What is happening in this picture? Why? Think of the sounds that could be happening around you. What smells would you smell? What would the counters feel like with all that stuff on it? Does the air have a taste? What feelings do you see in the faces of the people in the photo?

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Photo 2

The Bus: Freedom Riders on a Greyhound bus sponsored by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) sit on the ground outside the bus after it was set afire by a group of white people who met the group on arrival at Anniston, Ala., on May 14, 1961. Underwood Archives, Getty Images

Freedom Riders

As you look at the photograph, imagine that you are a freedom rider. You are a young peaceful activist taking a stand against segregation. How do you feel? What do you see? Here are some questions to get you started. As you answer them, see what calls out to you as a good storytelling hook for your audience. How would you get others to know how it feels to watch your bus be attacked by an angry mob?

Questions

What is happening in this picture? Why? Think of the sounds that could be happening around you. What does the smoke smell like? What would the grass feel like underneath your hand? Does the air have a taste? What feelings do you see in the body language of the people in the photo?