



Abby Takes a Stand

Patricia C. McKissack , Gordon James (Illustrations)

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Why has their grandmother bothered keeping a menu from a restaurant that closed years ago, a restaurant that never served very good food in the first place? Three cousins listen to Gee's own story, set in the early days of lunch counter sit-ins in Nashville, a time when a black child could sit up front in a city bus but still could not get a milkshake at a downtown restaurant. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Abby, young readers see what it was like to live through those days and they'll come to understand that, like a menu, freedom is about having choices. Each book in the series tells the story behind a different 'scrap of time;' together they form a patchwork quilt of one black family's past that stretches back for generations.

Abby Takes a Stand Details

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From Reader Review Abby Takes a Stand for online ebook

Michelle Vanek says

In the American civil rights movement, Gee recalls the year 1960 when, as 10-year-old Abby, she is stunned to be turned away from the new restaurant, just because she is black.

Lacey says

Really good story

Laura says

I read this book because my 9 yr old was reading it for a school project. It was an excellent and educational story. I thought the reading was a little easy for a 4th grader, but enjoyable nonetheless.

Lauran Ferguson says

I actually enjoyed reading this book, it was a very refreshing story line about a 10 year old girl named Abby. The author does a great job of showcasing the 1960's so that a younger reader could picture exactly how things were back then. I believe that this book includes a lot of opportunities to learn about the 1960's and the civil rights movement. Although this book is fictional, it might be a good book to read during black history month to commemorate the actions of the nations African-American leaders and protesters.

Eileen Lazala says

gee is abby when she was yonger. that is a brain twister.the best thing about abby was that she is starting to take a stand about in CHAPTER 4 or 3.Abbey was bieng trieterd like moldy old garbage jest becace of her skin color.

i like this book beacuse it shows no body should be jugde jest becuse ther diffrent they should be teated because of the isides not outsides and thats my conclusion

Linda Lipko says

Another in the Scraps of Time series written for young adults as an introduction to a history lesson. The time frame is 1928. Abby and her mother are free to visit the "colored stores", but they cannot sit at the luncheon counter of those stores. They must stand in the back, while the white people are given service.

The author tells a tale of Abby who frequently accompanied her mother to Harvey's store. When she tried to have service at the restaurant of the store that had a children-friendly theme, she was scorned and made to feel like dirt.

Soon, she and her mother joined her cousin in attending rallies advocating sit ins. The book depicts a time in history when blacks stood for their rights by sitting down at luncheon counters.

While the book seemed trite and not well written, hopefully it opens the door for young adults to learn more about civil rights.

Christine says

I read this to facilitate a Grade 3/4 book group at my daughter's school. The book, *Scraps of Time, 1960: Abby Takes a Stand* by Patricia C. McKissack, is a quick, succinct read depicting, from a 10-year-old girl's perspective, many important issues of the Civil Rights movement in Nashville. I assumed the exact characters were fictional, but the mention of Z. Alexander Looby on p. 82 was certainly too specific not to be true. It always interests me to learn more about important but not widely known people.

The students were completely absorbed with the drama of the unfairness and the bravery of standing up for yourself, politely. I was surprised they didn't mention Chapter 1 at all, and had little to say about the BFF Patsy, although she does serve the purpose of painting a 10-year-old who is just like the reader. We were also able to look at the common literary technique of a story-within-a-story.

The rules for the nonviolent sit-ins appear at the back of the book.

This review is from a 1/15/09 entry at my blog runspot.wordpress.com

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Addie says

teaches you a lot about being honest and also about the time period of the civil rights movement.

Hamza Abdrehman says

This story begins in Gee's attic where Gee's grandma, Abby, recalls for her grandchildren what happened in 1960 in Nashville. Abby was a black girl living with her family, she was 10 years old, and she used to spend her time with her close friend Patsy. One day, Abby went to town with her mother, there she suffered for the first time from racism because of her color. After that incident, Abby gained an early awareness; she became

aware that this world contains good and bad people, and she became a civil rights activist as a member of the flyer brigade, handing out flyers about nonviolent protest. She was an active person while helping her cousin, John, and the other enthusiastic blacks. This novel continued transferring the course of events from the nonviolent sit-ins organized by blacks, white violence, deadly discrimination, and the steadfastness of the blacks and their faith in the justice of their issue. After a long patience, the blacks got their demands and rights. Equality dwelled between the white and black. Also, they were allowed to be served in restaurants and other public places.

The main idea of this novel is about the black's history in USA. I think there were a lot of purposes that prompted the author to write this novel. He wanted to discuss important issues and to plant it in the reader's mind and that's what he did with me. He developed my knowledge of the black's history, and increased my consciousness about what happened at that time. In addition, I appreciate the efforts of black people to gain their rights and I think that's what the writer expected from readers. I learned from African Americans how to be patient. Also I understood the intensity of the challenge of reaching what I want. As well as, this novel made me reject racism in all of its forms, we are all human beings and we are equal. Abby takes a stand has achieved all the purposes of the writer on me. It left me sailing in this period of time and thinking in its dimensions. It has made me Redefine important human concepts and values that we have always thought we understand. Do we really know what is justice? Is there human justice? What is the law and how a person could be oppressed under the law? Where is the conscience and what humanity means? And why we hate the different people? All of these issues this novel left me thinking about and searching for its answers.

The author's style was a beautiful and new one. And that is because he started from the end of the novel and then he moved to the beginning and events. Such styles may make the reader feels lost at first, but soon understands what is going on. The events were very interesting especially in the last 30 pages of the novel. I was eager to see the end so I ended the novel in a short time. I joined in with events to the extent that I wished I would enter the novel and arrange or change some events on my mood. I spent a good time reading it and wished it was longer.

This book was one of the books that attracted me in a strange way, I actually enjoyed reading it. It presents the American black history in a simple, understandable way and with clear diction. Also it gives us the opportunity to live the events of 1960's and to learn more about the civil rights movement. Abby takes a stand gives me a lot of information about the black history of the Great State, the state which I aspire to travel to. I really loved it, and I am sure that you will, too. I severely recommend you read it, especially if you love to search for the truth, to dive in the history of people and to think on the concepts of life.

I liked some of the quotes in the novel, quotes about racism like, "equality and Discrimination do not meet, they are like water and oil". It is a deep quote worthy of contemplation.

Alexis Collins says

As a reader, I was drawn to this short story because it was portrayed through the eyes of a young girl who learned what equality was through a harsh lesson. In the beginning, all Abbey wanted to do was ride the merry go round at the Monkey Bar, but when she was shunned it opened her eyes to what was happening in the real world. As with her Uncle John and his fiancé, Abbey was able to contribute her share of these protests by passing out flyers, as they sat in non-violent protests. Abbey was able to see first hand the beatings and violence that came from Whites and she shared all this with her best friend. Prior to reading

this, I never realized how much young children actually have the ability to see the reality we have in this world. My favorite part when she drank from the “white” water fountain.

Nancy says

I grew up in Nashville and was 9 years old at the time of this story. I remember the time well because we couldn't go downtown to shop because of the sit-in's. It was considered too dangerous. This is a good account of the times for 3rd and 4th graders. My students will relate since we live only an hour from Nashville. The places are real, and I can be their primary source interview! At least from the point of view of the white child who didn't go downtown!

Melanie Johnson says

In 1960 Negroes were able to sit anywhere on the bus but they was not accepted in certain places. So one Abby was handed a flyer for a carousel ride and she could get on because of her skin color. She told her mother what happen and her mother told her cousin. He told her that there will be a meeting at First Baptist Church to plan a protest. At the meeting John had mention about a sit-in that happen in Greensboro, North Carolina at Woolworth's lunch counter and they should have one in Nashville, Tennessee. Everyone agree and the protest started the next day. They would sit there until the restaurant closed and no one would serve them because of their skin color. In April, Mr.Lobby who is a lawyer house had explode with dynamite that a crowd of students marched to City Hall to see the mayor, Ben West. As Abby And her mother was watching television they heard a girl asked the mayor, "Mr.Mayor do you think it's fair that the restaurants won't serve people just because of the color of their skin?" He looked at the faces in the crowd and he said "No, I don't". Everyone was happy that their hard work paid off because they won and now that were able to go to the restaurant and be served. Abby and her mother went downtown the next day to eat it the restaurant and when they went back home her mother gave her a copy of the Monkey Bar menu and told her " I want you to keep this. A lot of people- you included- worked very hard and sacrificed to make it possible. Don't you ever forget that." Abby said " Okay" and kept it as a scrap of time.

It is an excellant book because it allow kid to read what the blacks have to do in order to be treated fairly even though some of the rules was lifted.

Samantha Rojas says

Gee (Abby) retells a story about her past to her grandchildren. In 1960, Abby helped protest against segregation by passing out flyers. This book would be suitable for 3rd-5th grade readers. This book fits the genre historical fiction. You could use this book to connect to a history lesson. There is some violence and segregation in this book that may not be appropriate for all readers.

Shante says

I came across this book while looking at my many books that were on my shelf. After reading this I fully enjoyed reading this and cannot wait to share it with my 3rd graders. This book is historical fiction and

provides a child's account to what was happening in the 1960s. This book gives an outlook not only on the positive but the negative in a child friendly way. It also gives an outlook on how young children gave a hand in those times. I would recommend this for the elementary level and can be read at any time during the school year.

Kristina Peterson Labadie says

This is a fabulous book for younger readers that leads to discussions about the civil rights movements. The events described really help the reader feel like they are there with the Abby. I love the details included and especially how it is written with a younger audience in mind. I have used this book with 3rd grade literature circles and they loved it as well. It couples very well with news clips from the time period. Highly recommend!
