

SOMETHING HAPPENED IN OUR TOWN



Book Summary:

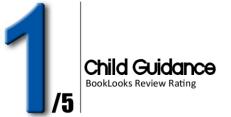
Young children discuss an unjustified police shooting of an African American man.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains references to racism; references to slavery; and controversial racial, social, and historical commentary.

Easy Reader

By Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard ISBN: 987-1-4338-3468-4





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3	After school, Emma asked her mother. "Why did the police shoot that man?" "Yes, the police thought he had a gun," said her father. "It wasn't a mistake," said her sister, Liz. "The cops shot him because he was Black."
	"Back then many White people thought that they were better than Black people, even though it wasn't true." Liz added: "Some White people still think most Black men and boys are dangerous, even though they're not."
	"Shooting him was a mistake. It was a mistake that is part of a pattern." "Yes. But the pattern is being nice to White people and mean to Black people. It's an unfair pattern."
	"But he won't go to jail," said his father. "Why not?" asked Josh. "Cops stick up for each other," said Josh's brother, Malcolm. "And they don't like Black men."
	Malcolm added: "I could get stopped by the police just because I'm Black, even if I don't do anything wrong." "What if it was a White man in the car? Would the police have shot him?" "They probably wouldn't have even stopped the car," said his father. "Sometimes White people are treated better than Black people said his mother.
17	"I'm mad that we're still treated poorly sometimes, but I can use my anger to make things better," said his father.