

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

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Child Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

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