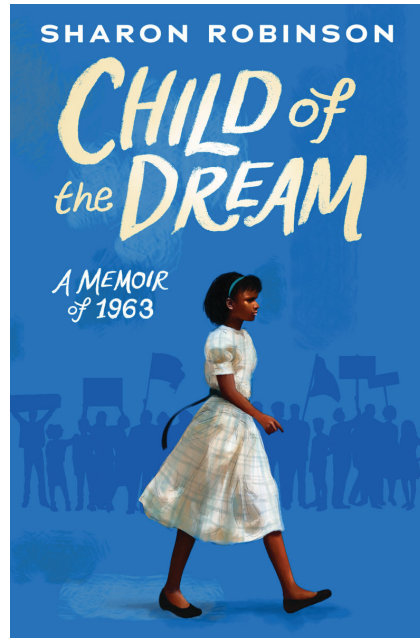


## Sharon Robinson



In January 1963, Sharon Robinson turns thirteen the night before George Wallace declares on national television "segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever" in his inauguration speech as governor of Alabama. It is the beginning of a year that will change the course of American history.

As the daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, Sharon has opportunities that most people would never dream of experiencing. Her family hosts multiple fund-raisers at their home in Connecticut for the work that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is doing. Sharon sees her first concert after going backstage at the Apollo Theater. And her whole family attends the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

But things don't always feel easy for Sharon. She is one of the only Black children in her wealthy Connecticut neighborhood. Her older brother, Jackie Robinson Jr., is having a hard time trying to live up to his father's famous name, causing some rifts in the family. And Sharon feels isolated—struggling to find her role in the civil rights movement that is taking place across the country.

This is the story of how one girl finds her voice in the fight for justice and equality.

## *Child of the Dream*

### Relevant Vocabulary:

- Memoir
- Teenagers
- Justice
- Equality
- March on Washington
- The Dream
- Civil Rights Movement
- 1963
- Segregation
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- NAACP
- Jim Crow
- First Amendment
- Children's Crusade
- Civil Rights Act
- Legacy
- March on Washington

### RRS connection to TEKS (4-5<sup>th</sup> grade): Please refer to TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading:

1. **Comprehension skills:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.
2. **Response skills:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.
3. **Author's purpose and craft:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.
4. **Composition I:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process.
5. **Composition II:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—genres.
6. **Inquiry and research:** listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts.

### Pre-reading reflection and dialogue:

- What does an author do?
- What does an author do? How is it different when an author writes their own story? Is it different?
- Do a little research about the year 1963. Find a few cool photos of people, places, and events.
- Think about the title of the book? What does it tell us about the story? What do you think the story is about?
- What do you know about the Civil Rights Movement? Get help from your librarian to find more information about the Civil Rights Movement.
- Read the author's note at the end of the book: What questions do you have right away?

### While-reading engagement:

#### Chapters 1-5

Sharon begins telling her story by sharing a bit about her family and home life. Collaborate with your friends to start a timeline of her story. You can also create anchor charts to help you keep track of characters/ family members. You can also include what you've learned about the Civil Rights Movement in this chart.

Keep reading the story to learn more about Sharon's love for Diamond, her horse. Sharon mentions many cities that are part of her family's story. Use a map to get an idea of her world- find Nogales, Sonora – also a border city and talk about Sharon's connection to the US-Mexico borderlands. Sharon is Jackie Robinson's daughter. Do you like playing baseball. Take a trip to the library and find more information about Jackie Robinson. Finish reading Chapters 4 and 5 and talk about Sharon's worries. What is she worried about? How does she feel? Can you relate to her worries? You can also make a drawing to summarize these first five chapters.

### **Chapters 6-10**

Sharon visits her father in the hospital. Describe how she feels and how you could help her feel better. Chapter 7 starts with the word, "segregation." Collaborate with your friends to define the word and create an anchor chart of how segregation affected communities in the past and still impacts us today. Sharon talks about Dr. King. Find more information about Dr. King and the other important people mentioned in this chapter. There's a lot of information in this chapter connected to the Civil Rights Movement. Create a narrative unity chart and find connections to the Mexican American fight for civil rights. Add the events described in Chapter 8 to your timeline. Draw an illustration of Chapter 10 showing how Sharon feels at the end of this chapter.

### **Chapters 11-15**

Sharon shares more of her family life with us. Describe Sharon's parents and her relationship with them. Why does Sharon get to go to the Apollo Theater? What happens at the theater? The school dance makes Sharon nervous. What advice do her parents give her? What advice would you give her? Chapter 15 gives us more information about the Civil Rights Movement. What new information do you learn? How did this Civil Rights Movement affect Mexican Americans in Texas?

### **Chapters 16-20**

What's the First Amendment? You can use various forms of media to learn more about the First Amendment. You can also write a summary of what happens in Chapter 17, or make an illustration. What do you think will happen next? Why do you think Sharon, the author, shares so much of her family life with young readers? Look at the photos that Sharon shares. What information do these photos give you? Find photos of your family or photos of the Rio Grande Valley. What do we learn from historical photographs? Learn more about the Children's Crusade and Sharon's family participation in the Civil Rights Movement.

### **Chapters 21-25**

Think about what you would like to learn about the Civil Rights Act. Create posters with information about what this law says. You can also add the protections that the law is missing. In Chapter 22, Sharon and her family talk about the meaning of the word, "legacy." What does this word mean to you? Sharon goes to camp, describe her experience. What do you think would've made her experience better? Talk about Sharon's relationship with her brothers. You can also create character charts to describe her brothers.

### **Chapters 26-30**

Trip to Washington, DC! Read the last few chapters to find out what important event happens in Washington, DC. Add more events to your timeline. Listen to the song, "We Shall Overcome." You can rewrite the words to create your song. What do you think will happen next? Follow this link: <http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/civil-rights-movement/> to learn more about the Civil Rights Movement. You can also find more information about Jackie Robinson and his work at <https://www.pbs.org/search/?q=jackie+robinson>. How does Sharon's story end?

### Post-reading and wrap-up:

- Discuss the take-home message and form your own opinion. With your teacher's help, look for reviews of this book. For example, Publisher's Weekly and Kirkus Reviews. Do you agree or disagree with the reviews? Write, draw, or share your thoughts.
- Provide recommendations for future readers: Should other 4-5<sup>th</sup> graders read this book? What do you think?
- Get inspired by Sharon's story. Write something that's happening in your life or that has happened. What story should you tell?
- Make a Venn Diagram and compare yourself to Sharon. What is similar? What is different? Decorate it with pictures and drawings.
- Take a story from home: ask your parents to tell you a story from when you were younger. Write it down like a chapter from your own book. Draw or find a picture to go with it. Be sure to post it for Sharon to see!
- Make a welcome banner for Sharon Robinson! Decorate it with photos and drawings.
- Prepare three questions you would like to ask Sharon Robinson during her campus visit.

### Useful links:

- Author Website: <http://www.sharonrobinsonink.com/books-child-of-the-dream>
- NPR Interview: <https://www.npr.org/2019/09/10/759554189/in-child-of-the-dream-jackie-robinson-s-daughter-recounts-her-life-in-1963>
- Scholastic: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/authors/sharon-robinson/>
- Kirkus Review: <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/sharon-robinson/child-of-the-dream/>
- 2019 National Book Festival: <https://www.loc.gov/item/webcast-8810/>