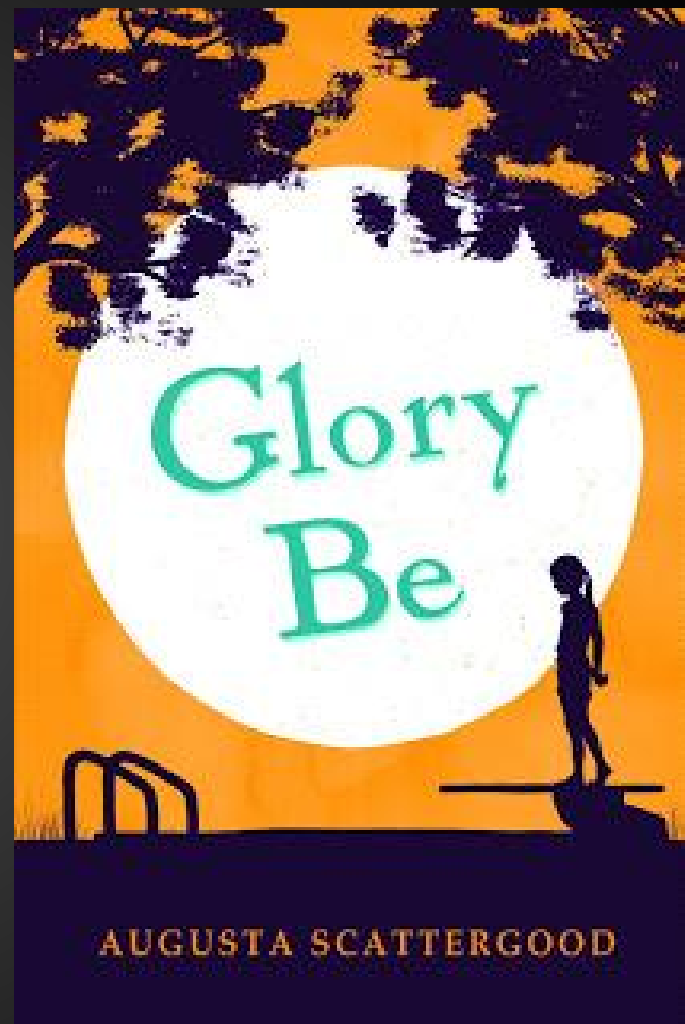


Glory Be and Freedom Summer



Setting the stage...

- ❑ In the early 60's, Mississippi was the poorest state in the nation.
- ❑ 86% of non-white families lived below the national poverty line.
- ❑ In the 1950s, Mississippi was 45% black, but only 5% of those were registered voters.

Setting the stage...

To maintain segregation and deny black people their citizenship rights — and to continue reaping the economic benefits of racial exploitation — the white power structure turned Mississippi into a "closed society" ruled by fear from the top down. Rather than mechanize as other Southern states have done, much of Mississippi agriculture continues to rely on cheap black labor.



Setting the stage...

Black people who fought back were fired from their jobs, thrown out of their homes, beaten, jailed, tortured, and even killed. Their homes and churches were attacked.

State and community leaders made sure that black people had the lowest wages, poorest houses, and harshest lives. Most white Mississippians thought this was normal. Racism was enforced by the highest authorities.

Stop and Talk:

Does any of this sound familiar?

What do you recognize from *Glory Be* in these facts about life in Mississippi?



Freedom Summer was about
obtaining real freedom and
equality.

Mississippi Freedom Summer Project

Volunteer Orientation:
Two orientations for Summer Project volunteers are held at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio (part of Miami University today).



Mississippi Freedom Summer Project

Goal 1: Voter Registration & the birth/growth of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP).



Mississippi Freedom Summer Project

Goal 2: Freedom Schools - taught by volunteers, focus on literacy and opening up new worlds of thought and possibility for black children and adults.



Mississippi Freedom Summer Project

Goal 3: Community Centers - cultural and educational programs including political organization, adult-literacy courses, health-education classes, vocational training, and even libraries for those denied access to “white-only” libraries.



Mississippi Freedom Summer Project

Goal 4: Raise national awareness of Mississippi realities and demand Federal action through a campaign of letters and legal action.



Stop and Talk:

In *Glory Be*, Laura's mom is a Freedom Worker, helping out in a community health clinic in Mississippi.

- How does that line up with facts you've learned about Freedom Summer?
- Why do characters like Frankie and J.T.'s father see a health clinic as threatening?

Mississippi Freedom Summer Project: Reactions

Mississippi's white power structure and white media react to Freedom Summer as if they were facing invasion by the North.

The Klan issues its own warning — on a single night crosses are burned in 64 of the state's 82 counties.

Some of the churches that had agreed to host Freedom Schools are firebombed.



Mississippi Freedom Summer Project: Reactions

The first group of volunteers leave Ohio and go down into Mississippi on June 20th. On the following day three of them, including one summer volunteer, disappear.

Word arrives in Oxford, Ohio where the second orientation session is underway:

"Yesterday morning, three of our people left Meridian, Mississippi to investigate a church-burning in Neshoba County. They haven't come back and we haven't had any word from them...."

1,062 **67** **BLACK CHURCHES,**
arrests **80** **BUSINESSES AND HOMES**
beaten **BOMBED OR BURNED**

After so many violations,
the disappearance of the
three Freedom Riders
finally drew the attention of
the Federal Government.

MISSING CALL FBI

THE FBI IS SEEKING INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE AT PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI OF THESE THREE INDIVIDUALS ON JUNE 21, 1964. EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED TO LOCATE GOODMAN, CHANEY, AND SCHWERNER, WHO ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

ANDREW GOODMAN



JAMES EARL CHANEY



MICHAEL HENRY SCHWERNER



RACE:
SEX:
DOB:
POB:
AGE:
HEIGHT:
WEIGHT:
HAIR:
EYES:
TEETH:

White
Male
November 22, 1942
New York City
21 years
5'10"
150 pounds
Dark brown, wavy
Brown

Race:
Sex:
DOB:
POB:
AGE:
HEIGHT:
WEIGHT:
HAIR:
EYES:
TEETH:

Negro
Male
May 20, 1942
Meriden, Wisconsin
21 years
5'7"
120 to 140 pounds
Black
Brown

Good: none missing
1 inch cut scar 2 inches above left ear.

RACE:
SEX:
DOB:
POB:
AGE:
HEIGHT:
WEIGHT:
HAIR:
EYES:
TEETH:

White
Male
November 4, 1939
New York City
24 years
5'9" to 5'10"
170 to 180 pounds
Brown
Light blue

Puck mark center of forehead, slight scar on bridge of nose, appendectomy scar, broken leg scar.

SHOULD YOU HAVE OR IN THE FUTURE RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THESE INDIVIDUALS, YOU ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ME OR THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE FBI. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS LISTED BELOW.

Stop and Talk:

In *Glory Be*, Robbie, Jesslyn and Glory are stopped on their drive home from Tupelo and questioned by a police officer. This was a common occurrence in the summer of 1964 in Mississippi, and was actually how the events that led to the murder of the Freedom Riders began.

Imagine yourself in their position. What would you be thinking? Feeling? Wondering?

Almost three months later, the bodies and the burned out car were discovered. A corrupt justice system in the South kept the 21 men arrested by the FBI in conjunction with the murders from being held accountable for years. Three were finally convicted in 1967 (the longest sentence being ten years in prison) and one, Edgar Ray Killen, the Klansman who orchestrated the lynchings, was not convicted until June 21, 2005 -- exactly 41 years to the day later.



Although the pool does not reopen, Glory is hopeful for the changes that will come to Hanging Moss as a result of that summer of 1964.



Though the mass media focused almost exclusively on the deaths of the white volunteers, the nation as a whole is finally becoming aware of voter registration and denial of basic human rights in the South as important issues.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is signed into law by the year's end.

Stop and Talk:

- ❑ What impact are the events of the summer of 1964 still having on our lives today?
- ❑ What current issues in our society mirror the struggles of that summer?
- ❑ What lessons are there for us in *Glory Be* and the true accounts of Freedom Summer?

Has society really changed?

The following link shows common practices in modern society that are basically a socialized version of racism. Please view before sharing with students. May not be appropriate for all classes.

