

# Delve Deeper into *The Barber of Birmingham*

A film by Gail Dolgin and Robin Fryday

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of San Diego Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *The Barber of Birmingham*.

*In this 2012 Oscar-nominated short film, Alabama barber and civil rights veteran James Armstrong experiences the fulfillment of an unimaginable dream: the election of the first African-American president.*

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## ADULT NONFICTION

### Jim Crow

**Blackmon, Douglas A.** *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II.* New York: Doubleday, 2008. Blackmon describes a neoslavery system that exploited legal loopholes and federal policies which discouraged prosecution of whites for continuing to hold black workers against their wills. As it poured millions of dollars into southern government treasuries, the new slavery also became a key instrument in the terrorization of African Americans seeking full participation in the U.S. political system.

**Chafe, William Henry.** *Remembering Jim Crow: African Americans Tell About Life in the Segregated South.* New York: New Press, 2001. A series of interviews record the firsthand accounts of people who lived through segregation in the South.

**Klarman, Michael J.** *From Jim Crow to Civil Rights: The Supreme Court and the Struggle for Racial Equality.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. Klarman discusses the role of the Supreme Court and its rulings during the civil rights

struggle, detailing the politics and social environment of the times.

### Civil Rights

**Branch, Taylor.** *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-63.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1988. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award this has been described as one of the best books ever written on the Civil Rights Movement.

**Garrow, David J.** *Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.* New York: Perennial Classics, 2004. Garrow's book is based on personal papers, FBI documents and interviews with Martin Luther King's closest surviving associates.

**Lewis, John.** *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998. Arrested more than forty times, civil rights leader and Congressman, John Lewis, recalls his experiences during the civil rights movement.

### Bloody Sunday

**Chestnut, J. L.; Cass, Julia.** *Black in Selma: The Uncommon Life of J.L. Chestnut Jr.* New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 1990. The first black lawyer in Selma tells about his participation in the 1965 march to Montgomery that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**Garrow, David J.** *Protest at Selma: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.* New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1978. Garrow discusses the impact of the Selma protests on voting rights for African Americans.

**Webb, Sheyann. Nelson, Rachel West, Sikora, Frank.** *Selma, Lord, Selma: Girlhood Memories of the Civil Rights Days.* New York: Morrow, 1980. Two adult women recount

their memories of Selma, Alabama at the time of civil rights marches.

### Foot soldiers

**Olson, Lynne.** *Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970.* New York: Scribner, 2001. Olson writes about the pivotal role played by ordinary women in the Civil Rights movement-- one that often went without recognition.

**Payne, Charles M.** *I've Got the Light of Freedom: The Organizing Tradition and the Mississippi Freedom Struggle.* Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995. A study of local level civil rights activism in Mississippi, this book emphasizes the role played by unsung members of the community, particularly women and youth.

**Williams, Juan.** *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965.* New York: Penguin, 2002. Written by a *Washington Post* correspondent, this book uses photography and a focus on lesser known activists to bring the civil rights movement to life.

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## ADULT FICTION

**Askew, Rilla.** *Fire in Beulah.* New York: Viking, 2001. The story centers on the complex relationship between a white woman and her black maid in the build up to the Tulsa Race Riots.

**Stockett, Kathryn.** *The Help.* New York: Amy Einhorn Books, 2009. This is a portrayal of interracial relationships in the South at the household level, where black maids were subjected to humiliation at the hands of their white mistresses.

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**Kidd, Sue Monk.** *The Secret Life of Bees.* New York: Viking, 2002. A white and a black runaway join forces in a coming-of-age story set in 1964 against a background of racial violence and unrest in the South.

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## NONFICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

**Beals, Melba.** *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High.* New York: Simon Pulse, 2007. A black teenager selected to be among the first to integrate Little Rock's Central High School tells her harrowing story.

**Bullard, Sara.** *Free At Last: A History of the Civil Rights Movement and Those Who Died in the Struggle.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. A well illustrated history for young adults told through the personal stories of those involved in the civil rights movement.

**Hunter-Gault, Charlayne.** *To the Mountaintop: My Journey through the Civil Rights Movement.* New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2012. One of two black students who forced the University of Georgia to integrate, Hunter-Gault uses her attendance at the inauguration of Barack Obama as an opportunity to look back on her experiences.

**Partridge, Elizabeth. Hoover, Jim.** *Marching For Freedom: Walk Together Children and Don't You Grow Weary.* New York: Viking, 2009. This acclaimed book by award winning author Elizabeth Partridge focuses on the courageous children and young adults who marched alongside civil rights leaders in the fight for the right to vote.

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## FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

**Curtis, Christopher Paul.** *The Watsons Go to Birmingham.* New York: Delacorte Press, 1995. This is a Newberry Prize winning novel about a middle class black family from Michigan that visits relatives in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963.

**Magoon, Kekla.** *The Rock and the River.* New York: Aladdin, 2009. Set in 1968, a fourteen year old is torn between the non-violent approach of his father, a civil rights leader, and the aggressive revolutionary stance of the Black Panthers.

**Taylor, Mildred D.** *The Road to Memphis.* New York: Dial Books, 1990. Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, this novel describes the feelings of a young black Southerner attending High School in Jackson, Mississippi in 1941.

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## FILMS / DOCUMENTARIES

**Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin.** Directed by Nancy D. Kates & Bennett Singer. *Passion River*, 2003. TRT 83 mins. During his 60-year career as an activist, organizer and "troublemaker," Bayard Rustin formulated many of the strategies that propelled the American civil rights movement. But his open homosexuality forced him to remain in the background, marking him again and again as a "brother outsider."

**Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954-1964** Directed by Henry Hampton. *Blackside Inc*, 1987. TRT 360 mins. This six-time Emmy Award-winning documentary series about the African-American Civil Rights Movement.

**Freedom Riders.** Directed by Stanley Nelson. *Firelight Films*, 2010. TRT 114 mins. Chronicles the violent journey of the Freedom Riders as they defied Jim Crow laws.