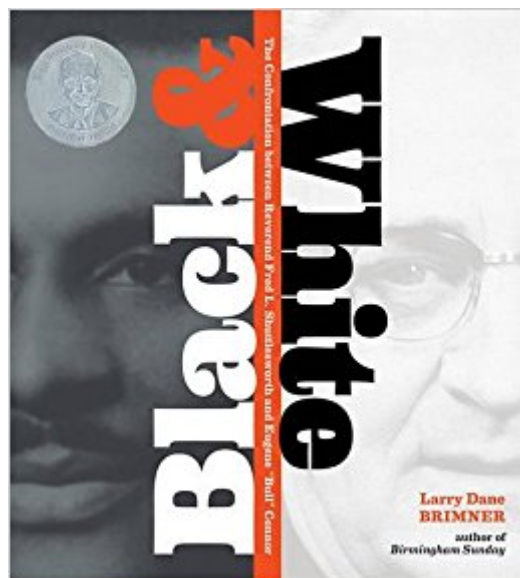




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# Black & White: The Confrontation Between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth And Eugene "Bull" Connor



## Synopsis

In the nineteen fifties and early sixties, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as Bombingham. At the center of this violent time in the fight for civil rights, and standing at opposite ends, were Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor. From his pulpit, Shuttlesworth agitated for racial equality, while Commissioner Connor fought for the status quo. Relying on court documents, police and FBI reports, newspapers, interviews, and photographs, author Larry Dane Brimner first covers each man's life and then brings them together to show how their confrontation brought about significant change to the southern city. The author worked closely with Birmingham's Civil Rights Institute as well as with Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and his wife to bring together this Robert F. Sibert Honor Book, ALA Notable Children's book, and Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book of the Year.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1150L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 6 and up

## Customer Reviews

\* "For readers new to the subject, the biographies will be a vivid, informative introduction, but even those who have some familiarity with the landmark events will learn much more here. . . . A penetrating look at elemental national history." --Booklist, starred review\* "A clean, graphically interesting design abets a well-researched, engaging narrative that contributes a more nuanced view of the period than is often seen. (author's note, further reading, source notes, index)" --Kirkus

Reviews, starred review"Can stand alongside Russell Freedman's Freedom Walkers (Holiday House, 2006) and Brimmer's own Birmingham Sunday (Calkins Creek, 2010) as fine examples of both civil-rights history and photo-biographies." --School Library Journal

Larry Dane Brimmer is the award-winning author of two other civil rights titles: *We Are One: The Story of Bayard Rustin* (Jane Addams Book Award and the Norman A. Sugarman Children's Biography Award) and *Birmingham Sunday*, (2011 NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book and the Teacher's Choice Award.) He lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Outstanding book on civil rights . Fred Shuttlesworth and a bull Connor were both had great beliefs of their causes. Bull Connor was a segregationist and Fred Shuttlesworth never backed down on his cause to fight bring justice to his people in the African American communities. The confrontations they both had definitely was inspiring to African Americans who had lost hope during this period. Bull Connor despite many attempts to " Go around the system" and deny African Americans their rights were confronted with "Push back" from Shuttlesworth. This determination of Shuttlesworth was inspiring to the reader. This was an excellent book that focused on two individuals with much different beliefs on not only Civil rights.... but all rights . Ultimately Bull Connor was defeated and Fred continued on in the fight for his people's right. A very good educational book on the civil rights struggle .

I think the thing that sticks out to me most about this book is the power that one person can have to make a difference for either good or evil. Despite tremendous pressure and attempts on his life, Shuttlesworth refused to back down from his efforts to end segregation. He was arrested numerous times, beaten up several times, had his home blown up and he still refused to give in. Connor on the other hand was just as committed to keeping segregation in place and wasn't above using his political position to fight for the status quo. In the end though his hatred and violent methods backfired on him. Shuttlesworth's commitment to the nonviolent approach even in the face of great violence helped win the day. This is a fascinating comparison of two men who were completely committed to a cause but who used very different methods and the chosen methods ended up determining the end result. A great example that indeed the end does NOT justify the means.

Civil Rights Movement -Very powerful and emotional time period. The struggle of a great people. This book will take you back to the tumultuous 50's & 60's .

4.5 out of 5 Stars The March on Birmingham evokes images of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. leading thousands of people through the streets of a 1960's Birmingham, Alabama. Huge dogs barely contained by the law enforcement officials to whom they are entrusted. Fire hoses drawn, aimed, and shot--firing torrents of throbbing, rushing water into the crowd hurtling protesters several feet through the air, and chaos run amuck. Seldom, if ever, does Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth spring to mind. Though I grew up in the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement, Montgomery, Alabama, before reading *Black & White*, I had never heard of Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth. Like many of you, I depended on the public school system to teach me all I needed to know of the the Civil Rights Movement and its leaders. However, had it not been for Fred Shuttlesworth, desegregation in Birmingham may have been months or even years away. Raised in a home without running water or electricity, the notion of becoming a preacher struck Fred, the oldest of nine children, at an early age. After graduating near the top of his class, Fred began working with a group of doctors sterilizing needles. There he would meet his wife, Ruby. After moving his family to Mobile, Alabama, for better job opportunities, Fred joined Corinthian Baptist Church and soon began subbing for the pastor during his absence. Believing that he would impact multiple lives, Fred sought formal biblical training, earned a teaching degree, as well as, obtained a pastorate. Never one to be tolerant of inaction, Fred espoused a holistic philosophy blending an individual's spiritual needs with responsible citizenship, forming an inseparable mixture permanently severing all ties of either entity operating independent of the other. Unlike Fred, Eugene "Bull" Connor, devoted himself to maintaining the prevailing social norms that had been dictating southern culture for generations. He possessed no qualms in resorting to volatile actions to put an end to the political agitation for racial equality. Frustrated by Fred's mission to upend Birmingham's social order, Bull vowed to stop Fred at all cost. Refusing to yield or even acknowledge the city's growing civil unrest led to his undoing. *Black & White* offers short biographies of both Fred Shuttlesworth and Bull Connor, then details the events leading to the culmination of the March on Birmingham and ultimately, city-wide desegregation. *Black & White* is a must-have for home, classroom, school, and public libraries.

In Brimner's latest non fiction book for young readers, he explores the confrontation between Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor, in Birmingham, Alabama during the 1950's and 60's. To grab the readers attention, the author begins by mentioning the first time the KKK tried to kill Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth. From there Brimner gives the reader more background information from both men, starting with Rev. Shuttlesworth. This is a wonderfully through introduction for any

young reader unfamiliar with Birmingham's awful history of race relations. I appreciated that the author did not shy away from Birmingham's nickname of Bombingham. It's visually appealing with black and white photographs throughout, and some memorable quotes from both men can be found in bold on the sidebar. "We nicknamed him (the judge) Injunctionitis Jones." remembered Fred. He issued so many injunctions against the NAACP and the black struggle that many Negroes believed white "officials could ask Jones to issue an injunction against the sunshine and he would do it. Black&White is written in an engaging matter to hold readers attention. It also takes a closer look at two men who played a very important role in Birmingham's race relations, making it a standout amongst many of the other books about the civil rights era. Black&White is well researched and sourced. Several pages of back matter are included. The book has recieved two starred reviews - Kirkus and Booklist

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