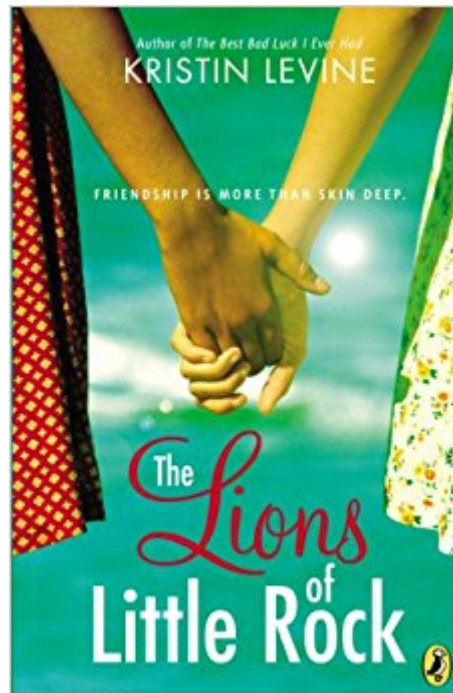




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# The Lions Of Little Rock



## Synopsis

"Satisfying, gratifying, touching, weighty" —this authentic piece of work has got soul." —The New York Times Book Review  
As twelve-year-old Marlee starts middle school in 1958 Little Rock, it feels like her whole world is falling apart. Until she meets Liz, the new girl at school. Liz is everything Marlee wishes she could be: she's brave, brash and always knows the right thing to say. But when Liz leaves school without even a good-bye, the rumor is that Liz was caught passing for white. Marlee decides that doesn't matter. She just wants her friend back. And to stay friends, Marlee and Liz are even willing to take on segregation and the dangers their friendship could bring to both their families. Winner of the New-York Historical Society Children's History Book Prize  
A New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0630 (What's this?)

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (January 10, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142424358

ISBN-13: 978-0142424353

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 169 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #6,671 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #16 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #201 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

In Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1958, as politicians rage for and against the struggle to integrate schools, Marlee, 13, is a math whiz but she has a personal problem with mutism —she's terrified to say things aloud in public. Then she makes friends —and more importantly, talks —with Lizzie, the new girl in her middle school,

who encourages Marlee to even do an oral presentation in class together. Then one day Lizzie is thrown out of school. It turns out that she is a light-skinned black passing for white, and the locals refuse to follow the federal integration order. (Several kids and rabid adults use the n-word.) Marlee and Lizzie meet secretly, until it becomes too dangerous, with threatening phone calls and the KKK always around. Marlee discovers dynamite in a classmate's car, and yet still the police do nothing. Marlee's first-person narrative brings home the standoffs with classmates, family, and officials, but what is most moving is that while most do not change, some do. Readers who want more about the history can start with the long final note and bibliography. Grades 5-8. --Hazel Rochman --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"Creating a book that reads as though written in one effortless breath requires a rare talent . . . Readers will root for a painfully shy girl to discover the depths of her own courage and find hope in the notion that even in tumultuous times, standing up for the people you love can't be wrong. Satisfying, gratifying, touching, weighty •this authentic piece of work has got soul." •The New York Times Book Review •"Kristin Levine's The *À Lions of Little Rock*, the story of a black girl and a white girl who become friends during the integration of that city's schools in 1958, has been awarded the New-York Historical Society's first children's history book prize." •New-York Historical Society Children's History Book Prize Award •"A story of friendship between two girls in the civil-rights-era South." •The *À New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice Award\* •"The remarkable story of the Little Rock Nine is familiar to many, but what happened next? In this quietly powerful page-turner, Levine focuses her attention on the events that unfolded in Little Rock the year after the integration of the city's public schools." •Kirkus Reviews, starred review\* •"With remarkable depth and clarity, Levine unflinchingly portrays racial tension in the 1950s Deep South. Reader will be moved by Marlee and Liz's strong bonds and inspired by Marlee's unwavering tenacity in the face of what seems like insurmountable adversity." •School Library Journal, starred review\* •"Successfully weaving historical events with a dynamic personal narrative, Levine (*The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*) offers a riveting, frequently tense portrait of 1958 Little Rock, Ark., the tumultuous year when the governor refused integration by closing local high schools." •Publishers Weekly, starred review

The debacle caused in Little Rock, Arkansas and the resistance to integrating schools is well

known. It is not as widely known that the high schools actually shut down for an entire year because the school board was so dead set against integration. Levine brings us a story from the perspective of a middle school girl whose sister is sent to live with grandmother so that she does not lose a year of school. She delves into the issues without sugar-coating anything, from the issues of "passing" as white, to the violence against both blacks and whites who support integration, to the great hope that comes from seeing people find their voices to finally speak out against what is not right. Marlee becomes friends with a girl who is found to be "passing" as white. She pursues the friendship against the instructions of her parents, finds her voice, and becomes a key player in the fight to re-open the schools. Inspiring book - don't miss it!

This book is FABULOUS! I assigned this as a reading for a college course in Children's Literature, and the response from my students was overwhelming! The book exceeded my expectations and is easily enjoyed by my young adults and older students (I even enjoyed it and I am 40!!) Excellent themes on race and gender, lots of potential to do expansion activities in other content areas (mathematics, science, etc.). Highly recommended for teachers in 5th grade and above. :) Also, I contacted the author and she is willing to do a "meet the author" session with my students. I am so excited about this opportunity!!!

The Lions of Little Rock speak in the voices of children... Children who are making the world a better place one friend at a time. We still have a long way to go, but so many things are so much easier because of a few brave people. A story that needed to be told. Please read.

I loved this story. I was riveted to the tension in the community and its role in the friendship of two girls who should not have had to work so hard to be friends. I also love the idea that people in your life each play a role in the people we turn out to be.

Purchased for 6th grade Pre-AP ELAR class. My daughter loves it and says it is amazing! The book is written well and does the subject matter justice (I have a history degree with a specialization in this period of history).

This book has so many layers that you won't be disappointed. It is about courage, friendship, integration, and fear. The lions are metaphors for a number of things in the story which I wouldn't have thought much about until taking a grad. Class in which we studied it in depth. My son that is in

middle school enjoyed it as well. It is about a real time in history that I didn't know much about and it is very well written.

I truly enjoyed reading this novel. The way that this historical fiction fused many important events from the civil rights era was great. I liked the use of symbolism and imagery because it helped to paint pictures of the characters. In this era of American politics, it reminds me how much we as citizens must do to ensure that change, justice and equality exist for ALL people - not just the privileged few.

My 6th grader, a reluctant reader and a boy, loved this book and flew through it in a week.

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