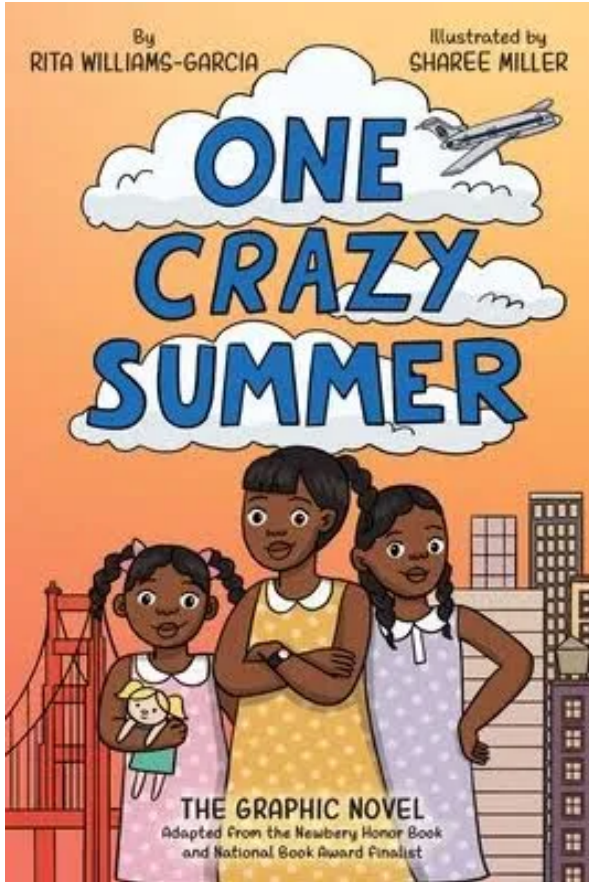


READ-ALoud GUIDE

BEST FOR AGES 8 - 12

ONE CRAZY SUMMER

Written by Rita Williams-Garcia and illustrated by Sharee Miller



SUMMARY

The year is 1968. Three sisters travel to Oakland to spend the summer with the mother they barely know. As the warm days pass, the girls begin to see their mother and the world around them in new and complicated ways, discovering family truths, community, history, and their own voices.

WHY WE CHOSE THIS BOOK

It's a moving story that helps young readers explore activism, independence, sisterhood, and finding courage in hard questions.

VOCABULARY & SIGHT WORDS

Define these words:

Stucco: rough plaster for outside walls

Fugitive: someone escaping something

Cacklers: people who are laughing

Indulgence: a special treat

Amiss: when something is wrong

Defiant: bold and unafraid

Migrant workers: people who travel for jobs

Learn more about:

Cassius Clay

Kathleen Cleaver

Fannie Lou Hamer

Huey Newton

Malcolm X

QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE READING

1. What is the first thing you notice about the sisters?
2. What might make a summer “crazy”? Have you had a crazy summer?
3. What do you know about Oakland in the 1960s?

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHILE READING

1. How does Delphine show love and care for her sisters?
2. What is Cecile teaching the girls?
3. How do the illustrations help tell the story?

QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING

1. How did Delphine change during the story?
2. What did the sisters learn about their mother?
3. What does the story show about family and community?

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Create a timeline of important events from the story.
- Draw a family portrait showing each sister’s personality.
- Write a poem from Delphine’s point of view.
- Research one fact about Oakland in the 1960s.
- Design a poster about a cause you care about.
- Map the sisters’ journey from Brooklyn to Oakland.
- Make a mini-comic showing a key moment.
- Interview a family member about a childhood summer.