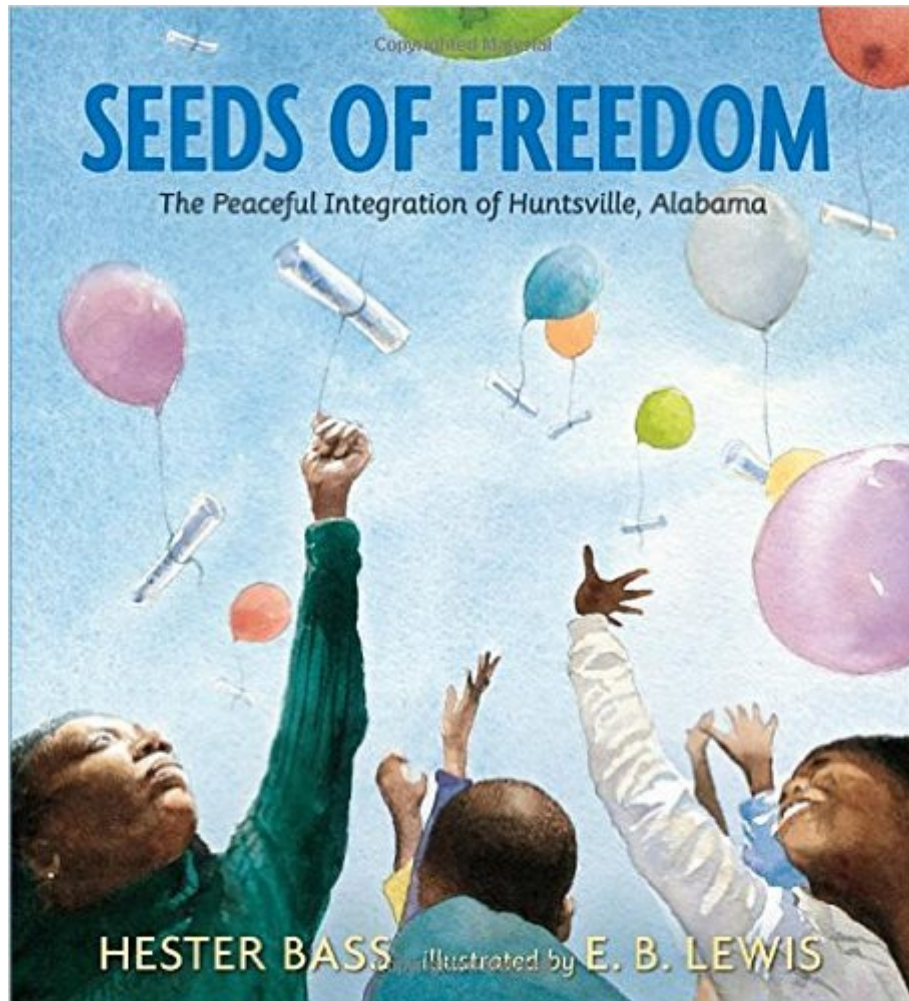


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# Seeds Of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration Of Huntsville, Alabama



## Synopsis

Explore a little-known story of the civil rights movement, in which black and white citizens in one Alabama city worked together nonviolently to end segregation. Mention the civil rights era in Alabama, and most people recall images of terrible violence. But something different was happening in Huntsville. For the citizens of that city, creativity, courage, and cooperation were the keys to working together to integrate their city and schools in peace. In an engaging celebration of this lesser-known chapter in American and African-American history, author Hester Bass and illustrator E. B. Lewis show children how racial discrimination, bullying, and unfairness can be faced successfully with perseverance and ingenuity.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD830L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick (January 27, 2015)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.3 x 10.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (10 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #182,926 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #151 in Â Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s #193 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #316 in Â Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

I like this text because it's complex and there's content worthy of close reading and collaborative discussions. Bass, the author, does not just tell a straightforward narrative about what happened in Huntsville, AL; instead her narrative (of sorts) requires the reader to make inferences, to synthesize and grapple. She uses the metaphor of planting and growing seeds of freedom--tapping into what these seeds need to grow - "But the seeds of freedom need news to grow, so another plan is hatched." From there she describes "Blue Jean Sunday" when the African Americans boycotted

local businesses and wore denim for Easter in 1962. The way she tells it, though, the reader has to make an inference that this was the "hatched" plan and the reader also has to infer how this was "news" to grow the seeds of freedom. With her audience in mind, the author has provided just enough content for the reader to do this. She continues to build on this idea of "needing news to grow the seeds of freedom" throughout the book. I'd do the following with intermediate (at least 4th) and higher students (through 6th) -1) Read this book aloud;2) then read aloud the author's notes and discuss;3) then ask the students to return to this book and read excerpts closely with an essential question in mind for discussion and written responses (like "How does Blue Jean Sunday reveal the main idea of collaboration?" or "Explain how the author uses evidence to support the idea that 'seeds of freedom need news to grow.'") Background knowledge about Jim Crow and segregation would be helpful in understanding this book, but a student could also read this book at the beginning of a unit of study as a way to begin an inquiry into this period.

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