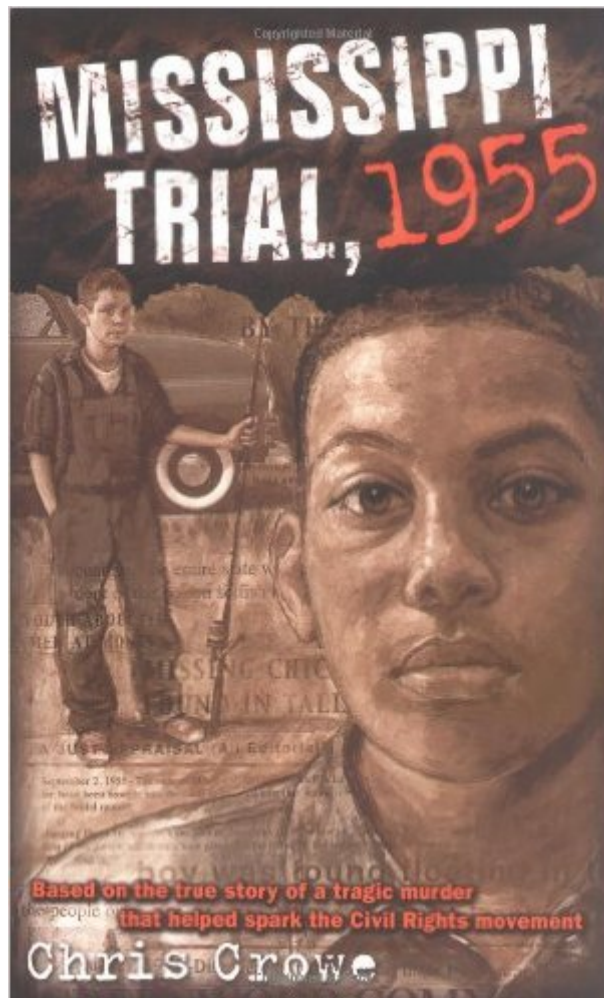


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# Mississippi Trial, 1955



## Synopsis

Winner of the 2003 International Reading Association Award for Young Adult Novel At first Hiram is excited to visit his hometown in Mississippi. But soon after he arrives, he crosses paths with Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago who is also visiting for the summer, and Hiram sees firsthand how the local whites mistreat blacks who refuse to "know their place." When Emmett's tortured dead body is found floating in a river, Hiram is determined to find out who could do such a thing. But what will it cost him to know? *Mississippi Trial, 1955* is a gripping read, based on true events that helped spark the Civil Rights Movement.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0870 (What's this?)

Mass Market Paperback: 231 pages

Publisher: Speak (November 24, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142501921

ISBN-13: 978-0142501924

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.6 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #46,899 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#20 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 20th Century](#) [#25 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism](#) [#29 in Books > Teens > Mysteries & Thrillers > Historical](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

This is an eye opening book, one in which the author Chris Crowe takes you to the south in the 1950's when hate and fear were the norm. This book takes the reader through the tragic events that lead to the horrific murder of African American teen Emmitt Till as seen from Hiram's point of view. Hiram, a teen himself, comes back to live with his grandfather in Mississippi for the summer, only to learn that the place and people he loved most are racist- just what his father has been warning him about all along. Now Hiram is beginning to experience and appreciate his father's point of view first hand. This novel is the perfect example of why traditional text books just aren't cutting it in today's classrooms. This is because *Mississippi Trial-1955* is retelling a part of our history (unknown to

many) in an interesting and very real way, unlike the dry and often "hand selected" pieces of history that go into mass produced texts overflowing with massively misleading and forgotten yet important details of our history . I highly encourage the use of quality historical fiction in all Social Studies/History classrooms especially *Mississippi Trial-1955* by Chris Crowe.

If you are not a teacher, you probably don't want to read this review...We were introduced to this book through a graduate class and were intrigued with the idea that Chris Crowe's book renewed interest in the life, death and trial of Emmett Till. Our reviews, however, are conflicting. Truth be told, only one out of four of us would use this in our classroom. Our debates range from accurate portrayal of historical events to an intriguing narrative intended to stimulate interest. Exaggerated and invented events are the author's license, but when used to dramatize the already factually horrific events of Emmett's demise, they weaken the impact it had on us and we wonder who was impacted enough to pursue a reopening of the case. The one teacher who would use this book in her classroom felt like the book represented the historical fiction genre well and would be engaging for middle school students. This is an ideal gateway book to pique curiosity into learning more about Emmett Till and origins of the Civil Rights Movement. Meghan MC, Chris W., Lori O. and Erinn L.

*Mississippi Trial, 1955* is an eye-opening account of the tragic events leading up to the murder of Emmett Till, an African American boy from Chicago visiting relatives in 1950's Mississippi. This fictional story is based on true events and is told through the eyes of Hiram Hilburn, a white 16-year-old boy visiting his beloved grandfather in Mississippi for the summer. As a tentative connection forms between Hiram and Emmett, Hiram must soon face the realities around him as a local young man from Mississippi decides to viciously show Emmett his place. This initial attack triggers a chain of events that lead to the brutal murder of Emmett. As Hiram begins to see the depth of hatred and racism around him, he finally starts to understand the reasons behind the tension in the relationship between his grandfather and his civil rights-minded father. This story illustrates Hiram's inner struggle as he discovers difficult truths about the grandfather he loves, and comes face to face with the harsh and ugly realities of racism in the south. This book does a wonderful job of giving readers a glimpse into a dark part of our country's history that needs to be remembered, examined, and learned from - not forgotten. As a reader I felt like I was there in Mississippi with Hiram as he struggled with his own feelings and whether he should risk his own safety to do what he felt was right. This is an excellent book that is tough to read at times, but that shines a light on human darkness and demands that we don't look away. I highly recommend this

book!

Have you ever felt like you and your dad never got along? Well that's how someone in this book felt, Hiram Hillburn. He lived with his Grandma and Grandpa until his parents got out of college they left to Arizona including Hiram, right after his grandma died. Hiram was always eager to go back and live in Mississippi with his Grandpa and see the love of his life, Naomi. His dad said that it's a bad place to live. Mostly because how they treat blacks. His dad finally let him go back during summer. Things were happening to a certain black. The black was murdered and a trial was started. There is only one question though, guilty or not guilty. There is no way that I could not have say I disliked this book. The book gives you emotions and thought. It kind of makes you look at life a little differently. I hope you would feel the same way.

Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Montgomery Bus Boycott, Freedom Rides, and the March on Washington. But one name and event is often missing: Emmett Till, a fourteen-year-old black boy from Chicago who was brutally murdered, his body dumped in the Tallahatchie River, for allegedly whistling at a white woman. Told through the eyes of Hiram Hillburn, a white teenager who has come to spend the summer with his grandfather, the reader is taken into the heart of racism at a time when the passions of the south were volatile and violent. Hiram sees changes in his beloved south, his friends, and even his grandfather; changes which make him doubt his own safety. Hiram witnesses R.C. Rydell force Emmett to eat a raw fish at knife-point. Hiram's grandfather offers no sympathy, warning that "colored boys should know better than to push themselves on white folks." After Emmett is murdered, Hiram doesn't want to stay silent, he wants the truth to be told, even if it uncovers secrets about his own family. Discuss of racism as it stands in our country today, and what can be done to prevent it.

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