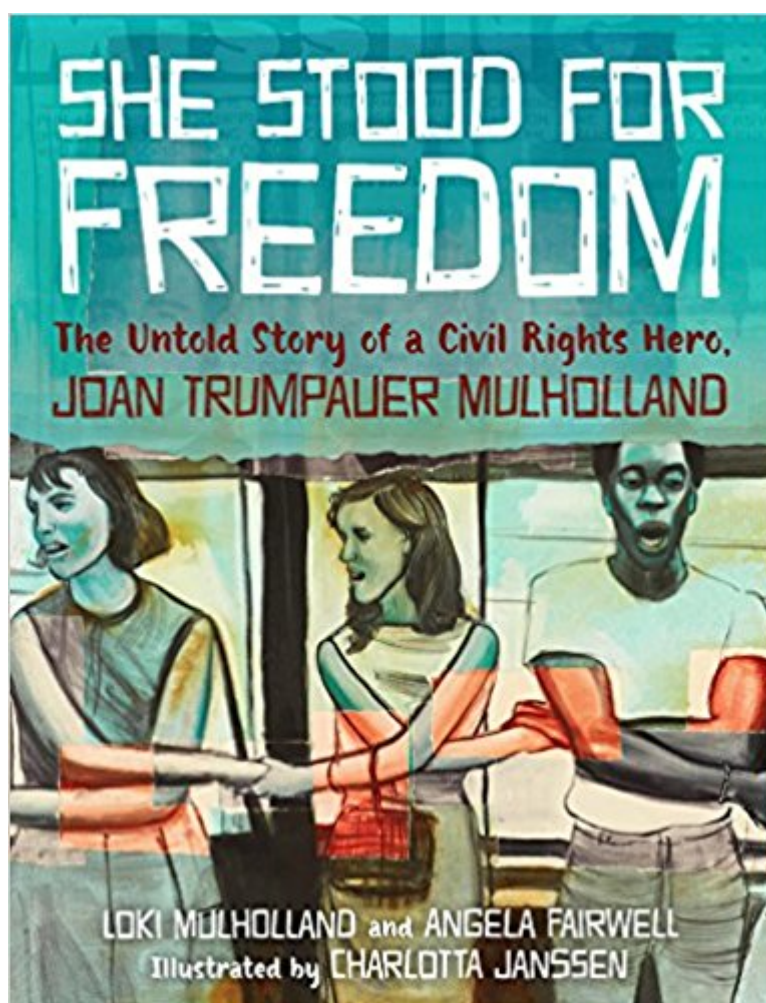


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She Stood For Freedom: The Untold Story Of A Civil Rights Hero, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland



Synopsis

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland was a white teenager in the South during Segregation who put herself on the front lines of the Civil Rights struggle. This is the first biography about her experiences, published simultaneously in picture book and middle grade editions, detailing the many events she participated in. She attended demonstrations and sit-ins and was one of the Freedom Riders in 1961 who was arrested and put on death row for months at the notorious Parchman Penitentiary. She was the first white person to join in the 1963 Woolworth's lunch counter sit-ins in Jackson, Mississippi, and that same year participated in the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King and the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965 which contributed to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act that year. Her willingness to stand up for justice has been an inspiration, "Anyone can make a difference. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. Find a problem, get some friends together, and go fix it. Remember, you don't have to change the world . . . just change your world." The picture book edition of *She Stood for Freedom* describes in an age-appropriate way how the America of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland's youth was torn by racial injustice. Through carefully crafted storytelling and the collage artwork of Charlotta Janssen, young readers will come to understand the struggle during the tumultuous era of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement from blacks being arrested for marching to register to vote or participating in peaceful sit-ins to the daily injustices of living in segregation. The book emphasized the heroes who worked for positive change and equality under the law.

Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 3-5 • Focusing on Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a lesser-known civil rights activist, this title is a brief portrait of her life, her actions, and the civil rights movement. From the time she was a child, Mulholland, a white Southerner, came to understand the injustice of "separate but equal," motivating her to cross the Jim Crow line to stand with African Americans to demand equality. At age 19, she became involved in the Freedom Rides of 1961. She knew the risks and knew she was a marked woman for becoming a "race traitor." She was harassed, imprisoned, and attacked but still persevered in her activities. Further involvement in the civil rights movement included participating in sit-ins, the March on Washington, and the Selma to Montgomery March. Her unwavering belief in equality gave her tremendous inner strength. Quotes from Mulholland portray her as someone who never thought of herself as a hero, only someone who could make a difference. ("Anyone can make a difference. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. Find a problem, get some friends together, and fix it.") Primary source documents and photos and other culturally relevant artifacts accompany the text. Collagelike illustrations that imagine parts of her life (for instance, Mulholland as a child seeing for the first time what a schoolhouse for black children looked like—in contrast to her whites-only school) are peppered throughout, and while eye-catching and mood evoking, they are not as useful as the photographs and other documents. VERDICT Purchase to supplement civil rights and biography materials. • Lisa Crandall, formerly at the Capital Area District Library, Holt, MI --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, 'One day, the South will recognize its heroes'. Joan Trumpauer Mulholland is one of those heroes. You cannot tell the story of America's Civil Rights Movement without talking about the sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the March on Washington, the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, Freedom Summer, and the Selma to Montgomery march. How amazing in this book to tell all those stories through the life of one woman—Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, whose uncommon courage and unflinching perseverance continue to inspire us all." -Jerry Mitchell, winner of more than 20 national journalism awards for his reporting on the Civil Rights Movement "With the focus on Black Lives Matter comes the discussion of what it means to be a white ally. Loki Mulholland's biography of his mother, She Stood for Freedom contributes to that

process...Mulholland explores the life experiences that led to his mother's decision to fight for racial justice even though it meant turning away from her own family and community. Joan Trumpauer was in no way a major figure or "white savior" but rather a foot soldier of the Civil Rights movement who shared the experience of facing down state terror and brutality along with her black and white peers. In this way, *She Stood for Freedom* is a fitting companion to other biographies and histories of ordinary young people in the movement...The short sections are arranged chronologically, and each describes a key event in Joan Trumpauer's life or a single topic such as the dangers of demonstrations, the lifelong friendships that she made, and the lessons she passed on to her children."-*The Pirate Tree: Social Justice in Children's Literature* "A biography that gives readers little glimpses or vignettes into what it was like to be a Freedom Rider and fighter for the Civil Rights movement...these little glimpses whet the reader's appetite to learn more about those who stood on the front lines of the fight for Civil Rights. Hopefully, this book will influence readers, young and old, to do the same. Very visual...especially noteworthy are copies of original pictures and documents found throughout the book that support or highlight the facts given on that page. Seeing pictures of Joan throughout her story made the history come to life. Would make either a great introduction to that time period or would be a great book for someone wanting to find a more personal voice for the history." ---*Compass Book Ratings*"Mulholland's courage and determination are stressed and explained in terms that young readers can understand. The colorful cut-paper-collage illustrations by Charlotta Janssen feature photographs and scenes that should be familiar to those studying the time period. Joan Trumpauer Mulholland is not a name that is familiar in children's books; this is an excellent opportunity to correct an oversight." -*Kirkus* "A wonderfully written book about a wonderful, worthy hero. An individual who I greatly admire." -Hank Thomas, Civil Rights activist, one of the original Freedom Riders, one of the founders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee "This well-written and beautifully illustrated book is one to be savored and shared with future generations who may need to look within themselves for similar courage." --Simeon Booker, award-winning journalist and author of *Shocking the Conscience: A Reporter's Account of the Civil Rights Movement*"*She Stood for Freedom* will help young people understand that "ordinary" people, like Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, were as important to the successes gained during the Civil Rights Movement, as better known players like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Her story also illustrates that you are never too young to do the right thing. This book will help young people better understand how they too can be heroes and "s-heroes" and stand up for justice and equality for all people." -Terri Lee Freeman, President, National Civil Rights Museum "*She Stood for Freedom* tells the story of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, an ardent, devoted fighter for the cause of equal justice.

The desire she had to right the wrongs of her country took her from a college campus to downtown street demonstrations and then to jail. She truly deserves the descriptor 'foot soldier' having lived the life of one while standing for freedom in the only way she knew she could. The book is a testament to both Joan and the many other unknown individuals who worked so hard to accomplish so much." -Birmingham Civil Rights Institute "This readable, fast-paced narrative illustrates why a young white woman would feel compelled to join the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. It was simple, actually: she was a Southerner, a Christian, an American and it was the right thing to do." -William Pretzer, Senior Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Named a Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2017, a cooperative project of the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the Children's Book Council --National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the Children's Book Council

I was led to this book because of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's "Read Red Challenge." This story of an presumably unlikely ally of the Civil Rights Movement is an excellent real life story that can accompany social studies lessons.

Great book, great people and a wonderful history to give to our future!

The book inspires me!

If you have a young reader interested in real life heroes, this book is a great choice. The topic of Civil Rights might not immediately seem interesting to a 2nd, 3rd or 4th grader, but authors Loki Mulholland and Angela Farewell, along with illustrator Charlotta Janssen have created a book that will hold their attention. Large illustrations and straightforward language tells how Joan grew up in the segregated South, but met black people through her church youth group. She joined in Civil Rights activities, primarily in the 1960s, such as sit ins, Freedom Rides and marches. JTM gave more than lip service to equal rights, and was jailed for her efforts. While not a book I would choose as a bedtime story, it is something I would give as a gift or read with a child for inspiration about doing the right thing. Readers in middle school (about grades 5-8) would probably enjoy the adapted companion book (also titled SHE STOOD FOR FREEDOM), which gives somewhat more detail on Joan Trumpauer Mulholland's early life and her Civil Rights activities.

There has been a big push lately for social studies classes to use primary sources when studying

various events and individuals. Books such as *She Stood for Freedom* help to meet this demand by combining a narrative with images of historic photographs, newspaper headlines, informational flyers, and even diary entries. The narrative is broken into easily readable chunks, which all have headings to make it easy to find what the reader needs. The description of what Joan and her fellow Civil Rights workers endured as they staged sit-ins, freedom rides, and other demonstrations is clearly told without dwelling on morbid details. The combination of straightforward description and visual images makes a book that can be used with middle grades and up to support lessons on the Civil Rights Era. The book also has a Civil Rights Timeline and original artwork by Charlotta Janssen. For those who have not heard of her, this is a wonderful introduction to the life and work of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. The book covers everything from her childhood in Virginia and trips to visit relatives in Georgia, to her time working for Civil Rights and her later marriage and career. There are photos of Joan as a child, as a young adult during demonstrations, and even a mug shot from her arrest as a Freedom Rider. I particularly like the closing section, "An Ordinary Hero." The explanation that Joan never saw herself as a hero, but only as someone doing the right thing is a great idea to leave young readers with as they finish the book. Her simple explanation, "When something is the right thing to do, DO IT! It's that simple," can be used as a starting point for meaningful discussions. Highly recommended for middle grades and up. I received an advance copy of the book for review purposes.

In the late 1950s and early 60s, Joan Trumpauer was a teenager living in Virginia. The times were turbulent in the South, as court decisions went against the "separate but equal" mindset of race relations, and schools and other venues were ordered to integrate. Joan was white, but she believed that everyone should be treated equally. As she grew older, she participated in the Civil Rights Movement, getting arrested and beaten time and again. *She Stood for Freedom: The Untold Story of a Civil Rights Hero*, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, tells not only the experiences of one person, but also of the struggle that gripped the South during those years. It's difficult to understand how Americans, black and white, were dragged from barstools at diner counters and beaten simply because they believed it was unjust to treat one race inferior to the other. The dangers were real, as quite a few people working to create change were murdered for their actions. Joan continued to work for the cause even after she married and started a family. In a poem she wrote for herself to explain what she did, Joan wrote in part that she did "nothing but act like an American, who was a Christian and had read the Declaration of Independence." *She Stood for Freedom* is written by

Joan's son, Loki Mulholland, and it contains artifacts she kept from the time, including a letter written by her jailer in Mississippi to her mother, questioning how parents could allow their daughter to act the way she did. It's all very sobering in an age appropriate way. Readers 9 to 12 will learn more about this recent period in American history. This book and a companion picture book for younger children were both illustrated by Charlotta Janssen. The images as well as old photos, flyers, and more, evoke the times and should inspire interest in this movement that still resonates in issues today. The publisher provided me with a copy of this book in exchange for my honest review.

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