

LORGNETTE

Quarterly Review of Children's and Young Adults' Books

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Illustrator

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Reviewer

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Pages

Unpaged

Price

\$18.99

ISBN

978-1-5362-1554-0

Publisher & Date

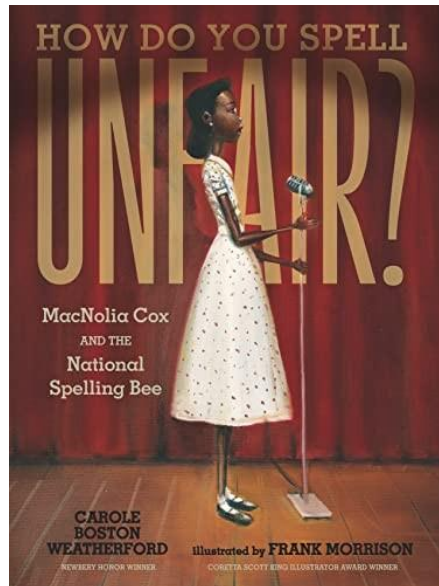
Candlewick, 2023

Classification

Nonfiction (305.896 or biography)

Grade Level

1-5



Book Review: HOW DO YOU SPELL UNFAIR?: MACNOLIA COX AND THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

This book delivers colorful storytelling based on the true story of a young African-American girl, MacNolia Cox (an 8th grader in 1936), whose idea of fun is reading the dictionary. She loves to learn words, their meanings, and their spellings. She passes a 50-word written test and an oral competition, advancing to the local citywide spelling bee in Akron, Ohio. Each double-page spread talks about her journey in competitions, and each ends with or includes a word that expresses her feelings, such as N-E-R-V-O-U-S or the word she had to spell to win the competition.

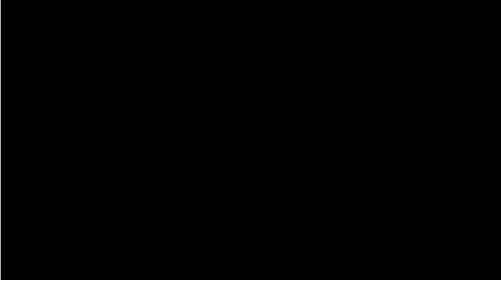
Living in Akron, MacNolia doesn't face the racism of the South. But when she ventures out to the National Spelling Bee, that story changes. Segregation and being isolated in separate hotels and eating establishments are new to her. She advances to the top five but is eliminated from the competition. Even though she did not win the national competition, she is welcomed back home with a huge celebration.

An Epilogue gives final details and a summary of MacNolia's life, detailing



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how she was honored later in life. A select bibliography provides more information about MacNolia and the history of the National Spelling Bee.

