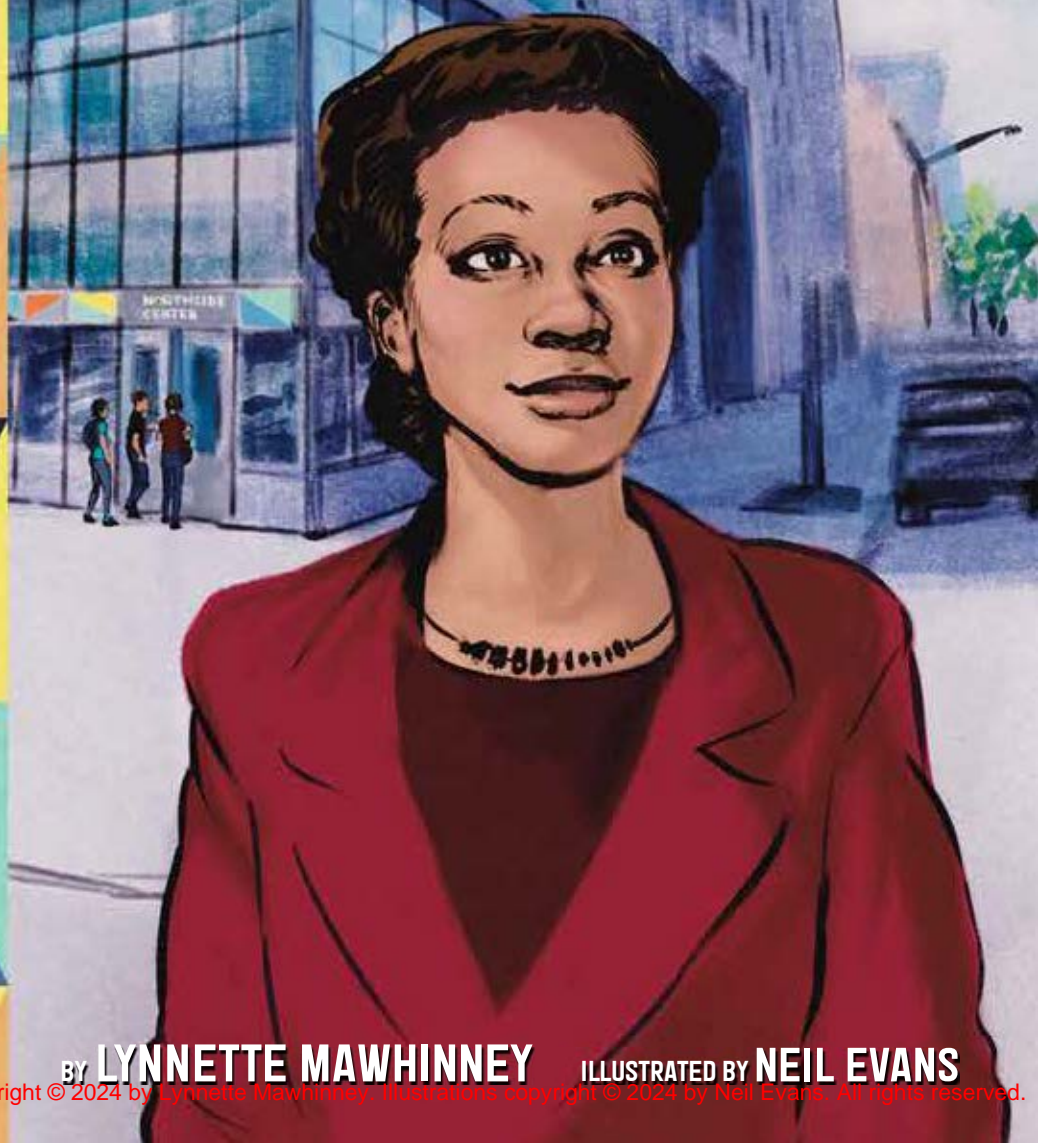


MAMIE PHIPPS CLARK CHAMPION_{FOR} CHILDREN



BY LYNNETTE MAWHINNEY

ILLUSTRATED BY NEIL EVANS

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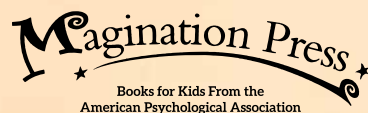
BY LYNNETTE MAWHINNEY, PhD

ILLUSTRATED BY NEIL EVANS

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With all my love to Gabrielle and
Enoch, may this book give you hope
as we strive to be a better world for
Black children to grow up in. You
are both my Black joy!—LM

~

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DEAR READER

This is the story about one remarkable woman, Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark. She was a woman of many firsts and changed many lives in the United States. You will read about Dr. Clark and hear about her childhood, her research studies that exposed the negative effects of racial segregation on children and helped desegregate schools in the U.S., the Northside Center that she founded to support children with special needs in Harlem, and importantly, her legacy of activism and advocacy work that continues today.

Dr. Clark's time growing up in the U.S. South was supported by a warm and nurturing Black community, but there was one hard, pivotal moment that changed everything for her. You will see in this story how that event impacted her life and work, how she thought about herself and others, how this influenced her research and pursuit of answers, and how all that created an unstoppable force in her to be a champion for Black children.

During Dr. Clark's time, life was different for Black people, but it was also different for women. Oftentimes, women would work outside the home until they had children, and then careers were put on the back burner. Dr. Clark had to work extra hard to balance work and home life. And on top of all that, she was often not given credit for her work and efforts. It is my hope that this book will bring her hard work and influence to light instead of letting it be forgotten or never mentioned.

At the end of each chapter, I'll challenge you with a bit of extra information called *Did You Know*, so you can go a little deeper into her story. Then you'll have a chance to apply what you've learned in the *Try This* so you too can champion for yourself and others in your community.

Just a heads up as we are on the journey together—if you come across a phrase that you don't know or remember, please look at the glossary in the back of the book. Since we are going back in time, there are some words like *Colored* or *Negro* that are seen as disrespectful and hurtful today but were once commonly used to describe Black people by themselves and others. Language is fluid and words referring to people have evolved over time to be more considerate, fair, and appreciative. Words used during Dr. Clark's lifetime are included here for historical accuracy, even though we do not use them today.

I am pleased to tell you about Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark's life and legacy. She was a great advocate for children and is a true inspiration. I hope you'll feel her spirit as you read through this book.

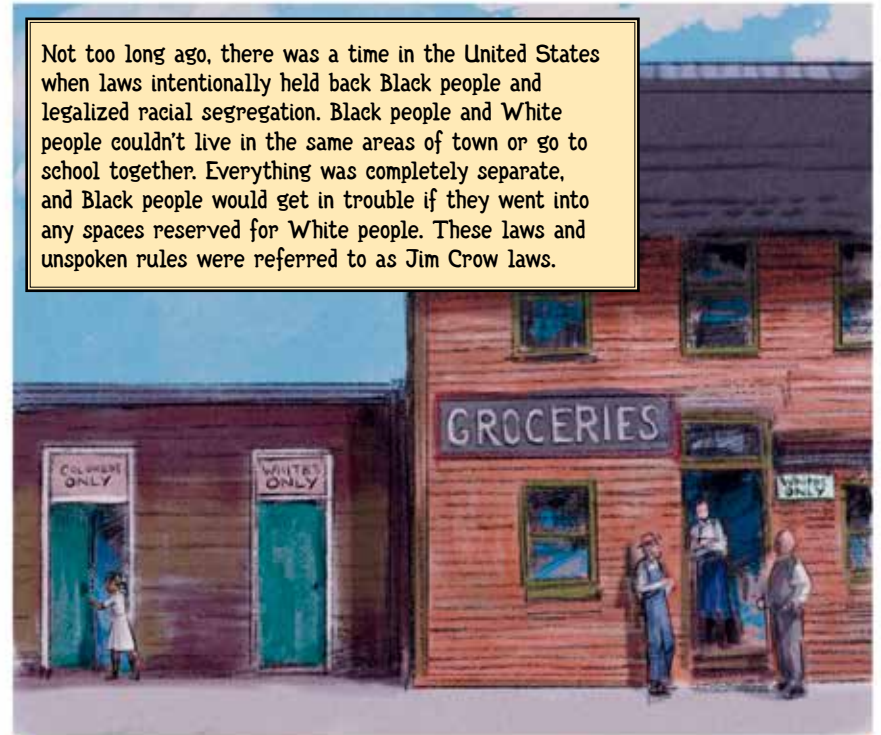
—Dr. Lynnette Mawhinney



CHAPTER ONE

Growing Up in Jim Crow South

Not too long ago, there was a time in the United States when laws intentionally held back Black people and legalized racial segregation. Black people and White people couldn't live in the same areas of town or go to school together. Everything was completely separate, and Black people would get in trouble if they went into any spaces reserved for White people. These laws and unspoken rules were referred to as Jim Crow laws.



Mamie grew up during this time, born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on October 18, 1917 to Dr. Harold Phipps and Mrs. Kate Phipps.

