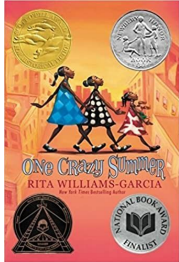


# Historical context for *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia



In the book *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia, Delphine and her sisters travel to Oakland, California to stay with their mother who left when they were small. While they are in Oakland, the sisters meet members of the Black Panther Party. Delphine had heard of the Black Panthers on the news. She had heard that the Black Panthers were a revolutionary group, fighting the oppression of Black people. However, Delphine had not heard that the Black Panthers gave out free breakfast to kids and ran a youth education program. Over the course of the book, Delphine confronts her preconceptions about the Black Panther Party and learns that people can surprise you.

Take a look at the photos below, from Denver Public Library's Western History and Genealogy department, depicting members of protest movements at different times in Colorado history. Then, dive into the suggested discussion questions.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sullivan, African Americans and members of the Black Panther Party, pose in Denver, Colorado. They wear berets and hold a baby. (1968)



Lauren R. Watson (Yusef Karouma), an African American and member of the Black Panther Party, speaks to a crowd at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Men point microphones in his direction. (1969)



Mexican-Americans protest arrests by police in Denver, Colorado. They are identified as (l to r) Martha Medrano, Esquiel Lovato, Larry Aragon, Antonio Martinez, and Larry Lovato. Lettering reads; "La Casa Del Barrio." (1972)



Women march in support of UMW coal miners on strike against CF&I in Trinidad, Las Animas County, Colorado; they carry a sign: "All Worthy Women My Sisters Have Ever Found It Thus If We Are True Friends To Others They'll Be True Friends To Us." (1913)



Native American men and women walk a picket line to protest perceived discrimination by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Signs read: "Indians [sic] are red, B. I. A. what are you," "Stop persecuting Indians," and, "Give us BIA." (1970s)



## Discussion questions

1. What do you think these people have in common?
2. What differences do you notice between these different groups of people?
3. Do you think the reasons they protest have things in common? What kinds of things?
4. How do you think they were seen by the rest of society at the time they were protesting?
5. Do you know if conditions improved for any of these groups of people?
6. Do any of the issues they were fighting against back then still exist today?
7. What kinds of injustices do you see in your world today?
8. What kinds of actions do you think are needed to fix those injustices?
9. Would you want to join such a movement?