



Rise Up

CJ is in current-day England telling friends of the civil rights movement in America. While speaking, CJ realises how events of the past connect with the present.

CJ: In eighteen hundred and sixty five,

Slavery is abolished in the USA.

(Interruption)

Don't stop me now, I'm on a roll.

90 years later young Emmett Till

Is killed

For whistling at a white woman, So they say,

In Mississippi, southern USA.

This side of the line segregation doing fine,

In restaurants and rest rooms, schools, stores, buses.

(A friend mentions that CJ forgot Rosa Parks)

December 55 and the Montgomery Bus Boycott got started by

One black woman who refused to stand up.

She was tired from work going home on the bus. She was tired of giving way, of making no fuss. She don't cuss, Just Refuse To move.

1957 and nine black kids

Desegregate a high school in Little Rock. Takes troops and press and national guard. It's hard

To get to school in Little Rock.

If you're black, Back

In the day.

3 years on in North Carolina, Black students begin,

To sit in,

Sit down and refuse

To move

Till facilities are the same for all Who study there,

Whose brains are pink, Who think

For themselves, not in black or white,

Who think in colour about what's right.

May 61 and CORE decides

To challenge interstate travel with the Freedom Rides.

63, back in Birmingham

Is the Children's Crusade in Alabam

Assaulting kids with dogs and hosing them down

To the ground,

Locking them in jail downtown. Thousands of kids washed off the street,

Small feet

Marching for justice.

August, all races march on Washington DC,

And Martin Luther King he

Tells the world of his dream

That injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,

That what affects one directly, affects another indirectly,

His dream, his dream, we all could share.

In Selma 1965 comes Bloody Sunday where

Civil rights marchers are beaten by police.

Three years later, 1968,

The dream is shot

And Martin Luther King's brave soul flies free

From a balcony of the Lorraine Motel,

Memphis, Tennessee.

And the whole world is watching.

Wow. Now I get it! This stuff happening makes the next stuff happen.

By Lisa Evans