In this history of the modern Civil Rights movement, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Diane McWhorter focuses on the monumental events that occurred between 1954 (the year of Brown versus the Board of Education) and 1968 (the year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated). Beginning with an overview of the movement since the end of the Civil War, McWhorter also discusses such events as the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott, the 1961 Freedom Rides, and the 1963 demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama, among others. The author uses interviews she conducted personally with

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My Personal Review:
In A Dream Of Freedom, Diane McWhorter gives the 9-12 year old reader a concise history of the American civil rights movement between the years 1954-1968. McWhorter covered some of this material in her earlier civil rights chronicle, Carry Me Home which won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction. A Dream of Freedom opens with a rousing foreward by the legendary Rev Fred Shuttlesworth who is one of the central figures in the story that follows. The book focuses on the turbulent period between 1954-1968 when the growing civil rights movement battled institutional segregation, violence and bloodshed. McWhorter’s account is both disturbing and inspirational. She is an excellent storyteller with a straightforward and unflinching delivery. She closes with a poignant epilogue and bibliography that encourages further research. This book is well organized and illustrated with over 120 photographs and collages. A Dream of Freedom should be in every school and public library.