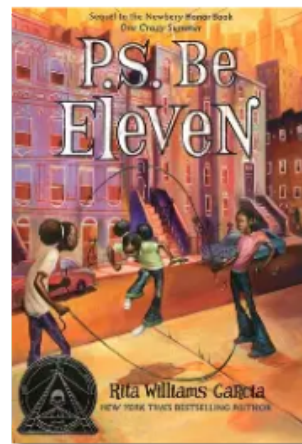
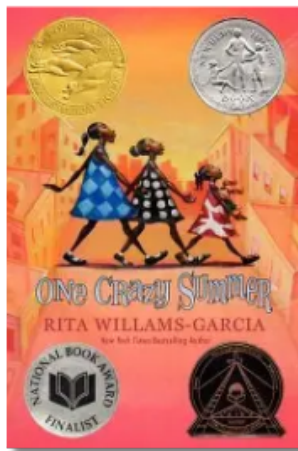
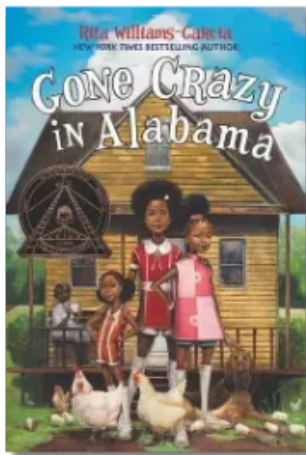


# GAITHER SISTERS SERIES

*Rita Williams-Garcia*



## **RESOURCE GUIDE**

**Reading + Writing + Analysis**

**NO PREP**

**PRINT & GO**

**UPPER ELEMENTARY  
& MS ELA**

# About the Text

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*The Gaither Sisters Series* follows Delphine and her younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern, as they travel from Brooklyn to Oakland, California during the 1960s. The series begins with *One Crazy Summer* and continues as the sisters navigate family relationships, identity, and growing up during a time of social and political change.

Through their experiences, the series explores themes of family, independence, and community while also introducing readers to the historical context of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Power movement. The sisters' journey highlights how personal growth is shaped by both family dynamics and the world around them.

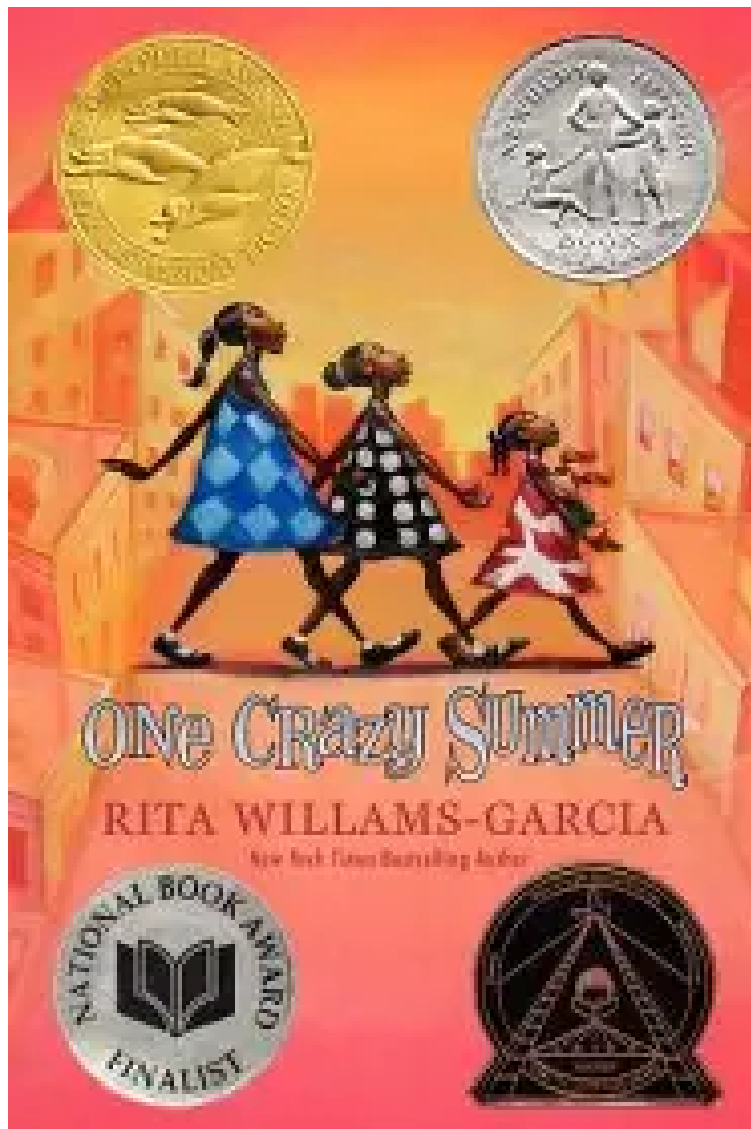
# Section Breakdown

**Book 1: One Crazy Summer** – Family, identity, and introduction to activism

**Book 2: \*P.S. Be Eleven** – Growth, change, and social expectations

**Book 3: \*Gone Crazy in Alabama** – History, identity, and family roots

# BOOK 1: ONE CRAZY SUMMER



# *Comprehension Questions*

1. Who are the main characters, and why do they travel to California?

2. How is their mother described when they first meet her?

3. What is the setting like in Oakland?

4. What expectations do the girls have before arriving?

5. How does reality differ from their expectations?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How do first impressions affect how we understand people?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

1. What role does the community center play?

2. What do the girls learn about the Black Panther Party?

3. How do the girls begin to change?

4. What challenges do they face?

5. How does the setting influence their experiences?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*Why is community important during times of change?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

1. How do the girls' views of their mother change?
2. What lessons do they learn during their stay?
3. How do their relationships develop?
4. What conflicts are resolved?
5. What message does the book leave?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How can new experiences change the way we see others?*

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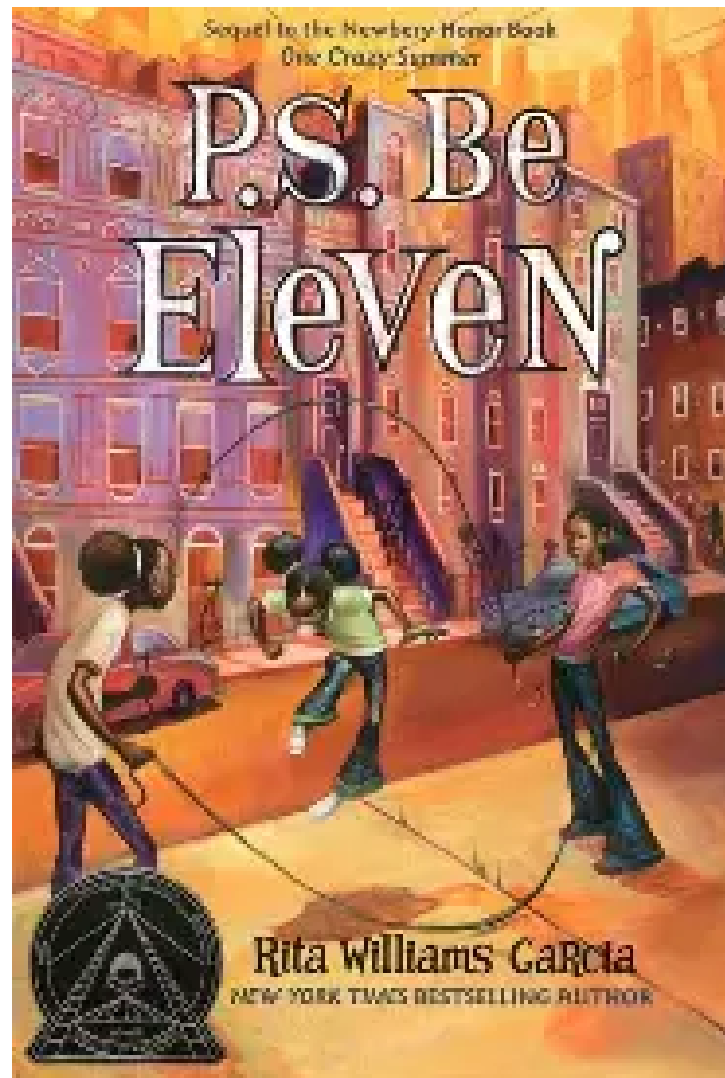
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# BOOK 2: P.S. BE ELEVEN



# *Comprehension Questions*

1. What changes when the girls return home?

2. How does Delphine feel about growing up?

3. What expectations are placed on her?

4. How do family relationships develop?

5. What challenges does she face?

# *Quick Discussion*

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## **Time to Reflect**

*What does it mean to grow up?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

1. How does Delphine begin to understand herself?

2. What conflicts arise with family and friends?

3. How do expectations shape her behavior?

4. What lessons does she learn?

5. How does she respond to challenges?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How do expectations influence identity?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

1. What important decisions does Delphine make?

2. How do her relationships change?

3. What does she learn about responsibility?

4. How does she grow emotionally?

5. What is the overall message?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How do challenges help people grow?*

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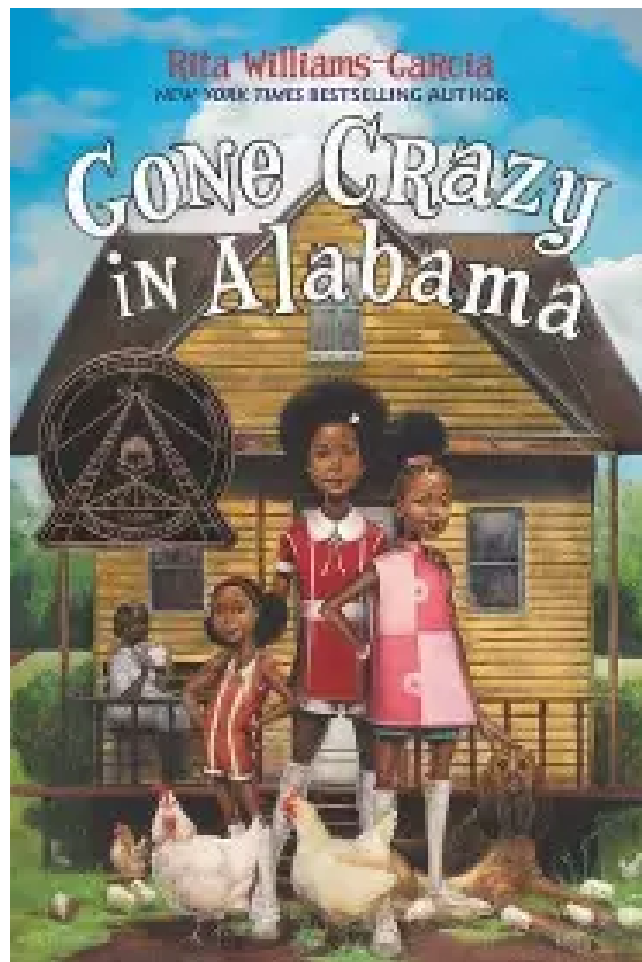
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# BOOK 3: GONE CRAZY IN ALABAMA



# *Comprehension Questions*

1. Where do the girls travel in this book?

2. What family history is introduced?

3. How does the setting differ from previous books?

4. What traditions are explored?

5. What conflicts appear early?

# *Quick Discussion*

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## **Time to Reflect**

*Why is it important to understand family history?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

1. What conflicts develop within the family?

2. How do the girls respond to these challenges?

3. What role does history play in their understanding?

4. How do relationships shift?

5. What lessons begin to emerge?

# *Quick Discussion*

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## **Time to Reflect**

*How does history shape identity?*

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# *Comprehension Questions*

1. How are conflicts resolved?

2. What do the girls learn about their family?

3. How have they changed across the series?

4. What message does the ending give?

5. How does the story connect past and present?

# Quick Discussion

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## Time to Reflect

*How has the journey shaped who they are?*

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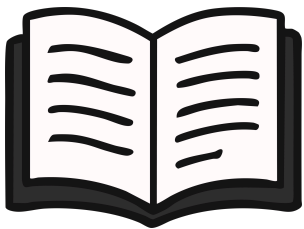
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# Extension Activity

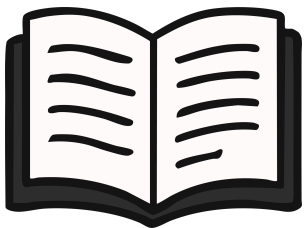
**Choose one activity to complete.**



- Research the Civil Rights Movement or Black Panther Party



- Compare the series to another historical fiction text



- Create a timeline of events across the books

# *Understanding the Big Ideas*

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**This story explores:**

- **Identity and self-discovery**
- **Family and relationships**
- **Activism and community**
- **History and cultural awareness**

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***How does the series show the connection between family, identity, and history? Use examples from at least one book to support your response.***

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# Final Project

- Analyze how Delphine changes across the series
- Explain how history influences the characters
- Create a presentation on the themes of the trilogy

# Character Notes

# HISTORICAL CONNECTION

## **THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

The Civil Rights Movement was a time when people worked to end racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. Many people protested unfair laws and demanded equal rights.

### **Connection to the story:**

In *One Crazy Summer*, the girls learn about activism and begin to understand why people are fighting for change.

## **FAMILY HISTORY & MIGRATION**

Many families moved across the United States in search of better opportunities. These moves often shaped identity, culture, and family relationships.

### **Connection to the story:**

In *Gone Crazy in Alabama*, the girls explore their family's past and learn how history influences who they are.

## **COMMUNITY & ACTIVISM**

Communities played an important role during the Civil Rights era. People came together to support each other, organize events, and create change.

### **Connection to the story:**

Throughout the series, the girls learn how community can support growth, learning, and change.

## **THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY**

The Black Panther Party was founded in 1966 to protect Black communities and fight against injustice. The group also created programs to support families, including free breakfast programs for children.

### **Connection to the story:**

The girls attend a community center connected to the Black Panther Party, where they learn about activism and community support.