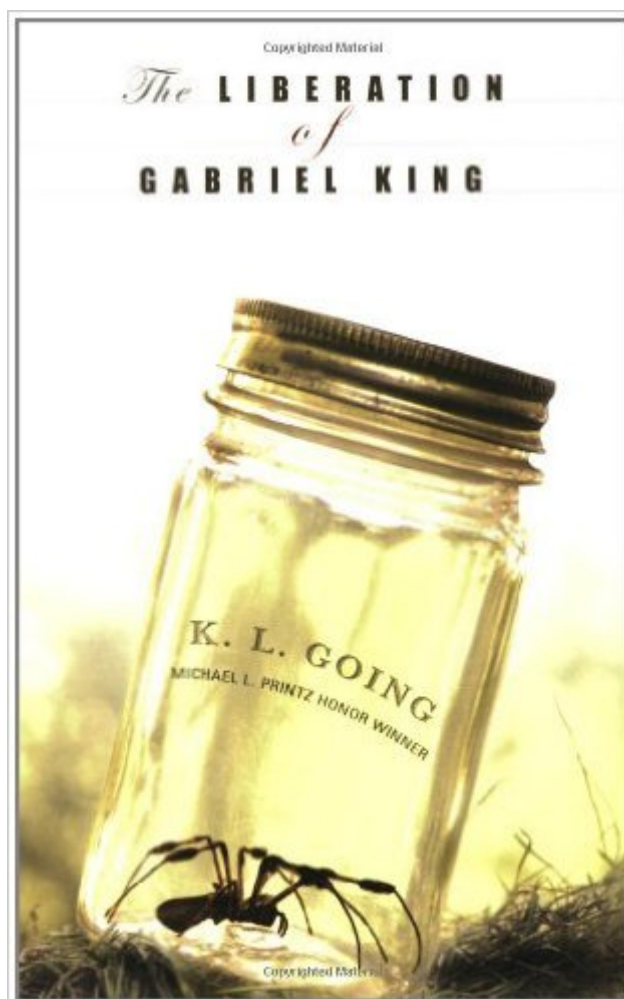


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# The Liberation Of Gabriel King



## Synopsis

Gabriel King was a born chicken. He's afraid of spiders, corpses, loose cows, and just about everything related to the fifth grade. Gabe's best friend, Frita Wilson, thinks Gabe needs some liberating from his fears. Frita knows something about being brave; she's the only black kid in school in a town with an active Ku Klux Klan. Together Gabe and Frita are going to spend the summer of 1976 facing down the fears on Gabe's list. But it turns out that Frita has her own list, and while she's helping Gabe confront his fears, she's avoiding the thing that scares her the most.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0780 (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (March 1, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142407666

ISBN-13: 978-0142407660

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (43 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #85,593 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #110 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism](#) #212 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #798 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I loved reading this book. I read all the time and have lots of favorites, now the Liberation of Gabriel King will join them. I had to read a book for 5th grade that was set in the same time period and covered the same topics but it was definately not as interesting. I'm going to tell my teacher she should have her class read this book instead. The characters determination and perseverance was amazing. It was funny reading about the ways Frita conquered Gabriel's fears. I liked it so much I read it in one sitting. I highly recomend this book to anyone 9-13. I think adults would even enjoy it.

I read this to my 7 and 9 year old boys. We couldn't put it down. It now ranks among our favorites with Tale of Desperaux and Ida B. A true treasure of a book.

Although this book is targeted at young people in the 10-14 age bracket, I enjoyed it very much as an adult. I purchased it for my grandson and he has called me up to tell me "what happened next" two nights in a row. Engaging characters and an important life lessons are neatly woven into an adventure tale of two young people in a little town over a hot summer. If you buy it for your children or grandchildren, read it first. You'll enjoy it.

KL Going does it again - a spectacular book geared for kids, but appeals to all ages. Going addresses difficult issues in ways that kids can understand without oversimplifying. I was moved to tears and laughter both times that I read Liberation. I look forward to seeing what comes next from Going's pen ...

I bought this book for Christmas for my 10 year old (4th grade). He will read a chapter and then come find me and read it to me all over again because he thinks it is so funny. He has to read 1/2 hour everyday for school requirements and he will continue to read this book for over an hour. Gets him away from the computer and GameCube games. Hurray.

THE LIBERATION OF GABRIEL KING is a timeless story of friendship set in a small Georgia town during the summer of 1976. Frita Wilson decides that she needs to liberate her best friend, Gabriel King, from his fears. A disastrous end-of-fourth grade Moving Up Day ceremony where Gabe is bullied by some classmates is the catalyst for Frita's brilliant plan. She decides that she and Gabe need to list all of their fears and spend their summer methodically trying to overcome each one of them. Gabe's list of fears is long and includes spiders, loose cows, Frita's basement, and most of all, fifth grade. Frita's list is shorter, but since she is the only black child attending a white school, she may have the hardest fears to overcome. Ms. Going seamlessly weaves in a subplot about the upcoming Presidential election of Jimmy Carter, a peanut farmer from Georgia. When Gabe tells stories of Mr. Carter's peacemaking and non-tolerance for prejudice to Frita's family, it helps cement their friendship even further. This story, told in the first person by Gabe, is about courage and the meaning of true friendship. K. L. Going lives in Beacon, New York. THE LIBERATION OF GABRIEL KING is her second novel. She is also the author of FAT KID RULES THE WORLD, an ALA best

book for young adults. Currently she is writing from home and working part-time at Merritt Bookstore in Cold Spring, NY. She likes for her characters to experience a range of emotions, and she tries to capture the good and bad feelings of young people in her novels. Fear is a feeling that all readers, both young and old, can relate to. Readers can connect to Gabriel King and may even learn a thing or two about conquering their own fears by reading THE LIBERATION OF GABRIEL KING.[...]

This wonderful story tackles friendship, race relations, bullying, politics, phobias, overcoming weaknesses, having faith in yourself and those you love, and finding courage and integrity even when it's hard. The main characters grow in ways I hope myself and my children can grow, and the supporting characters play their symbolic roles well. The history explained in the book is factual and woven naturally into the story. The morals and virtues aspired to by the characters are taught and reached organically in the narrative and dialogue, rather than preached by the author. The voices of the children, especially the narrator, Gabe, are genuine and endearing. One to enjoy as an adult and one I'd love to see on a reading list for school or in a social studies curriculum. Side note, the "n" word is used in the story, by an adult bully. The situation is explained and seemed to me to be handled well; obviously how to deal with language and cultural issues in books for kids are a parent's or teacher's prerogative.

I am a middle school language arts teacher and I read just about every new title that gets any hype. This book did not disappoint! The plot is well developed and the characters are endearing...Frita is so spunky while Gabe is a quirky scardy-cat afraid of his own shadow. Both Frita and Gabe learn a great about life, love, fear, racism and the nature of hate the summer before they enter fifth grade. In the end they realize that fear is a part of life - bravery is feeling the fear and forging ahead despite it. Great read HIGHLY recommended!!!

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