

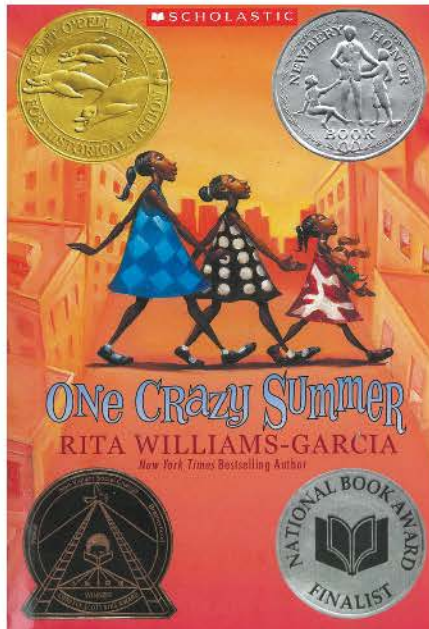
# Reading <sup>with</sup> Relevance<sup>®</sup>

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

YOUR STUDENT WORKBOOK FOR

## *One Crazy Summer*

A novel by Rita Williams-Garcia



This workbook belongs to:



# About the Book

## One Crazy Summer

### Story Summary

*One Crazy Summer* tells the story of three sisters from New York who visit their estranged mother, Cecile, in Oakland, California, in the summer of 1968. The sisters — Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern — have spent their lives in the care of their loving father, Pa, and protective paternal grandmother, Big Ma. Pa decides it is time for the girls to get to know their mother. With a variety of expectations from each of the girls, they spend 28 days living in her home. They have some eye-opening experiences in a new and different place that is bubbling with diversity and social politics.

Rita Williams-Garcia began creating stories and imagining characters at a young age to pass the time when she wasn't allowed to play outside. She read her older siblings' books from school and preferred writing to drawing, even in kindergarten. She began submitting her short stories to magazines as an adolescent and sold her first story at age 14 to *Highlights* magazine. She published her first novel, *Blue Tights*, when she was 30. Rita has written a total of eight novels, including *One Crazy Summer*, in addition to several other short stories and literary works. Her work has been critically acclaimed for its realistic portrayal of the lives of teens of color, and her books have won many prestigious awards. Today she is on faculty at Vermont College, where she teaches writing.

### About the Author



# Session 7

## Theme: *Non-Violence*

**Guiding Question:** How do you handle your feelings, and your actions, when you are upset? How do you resolve conflicts peacefully?

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Vocabulary

Write a complete sentence for each of the following vocabulary words. Use the definitions provided to make sure you are using these words correctly!



**indulgence** (pg. 89): n., something that is pleasurable, a treat

---

**wilt** (pg. 96): v., fade away, become smaller

---

**defiant** (pg. 97): adj., disobedient, rebellious

---

## Session 6 Recap

At the center, the sisters receive a lesson on social revolutionaries like Huey Newton and Che Guevara. Delphine recognizes a boy, Hirohito, as the boy who almost ran them over when they were walking to Ming's. Vonetta declares that she and her sisters are not in Oakland to learn about contributing to a revolution, but to meet their mother, which incites an uproar of laughter from everyone in class except Hirohito. At sundown, the girls return to Cecile's and eat more Chinese food on the floor; they bombard Cecile with questions about the name Sister Inzilla. Delphine remembers the time she discovered her name wasn't a unique creation like Vonetta's, but was in reference to a dolphin.

# Read pages 86-101



## While You Read:

As you read, keep track of unfamiliar words, inspiring quotes, and questions you have.

---

---

---

---

---

---

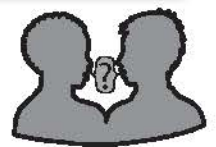
---

---

**Reading Context:** Consider looking up one of the original 1960s commercials for this popular toy.

**Chatty Cathy** (pg. 93): reference to a doll of the time period that talked a lot

## Discussion Questions



Write your response to each question below using a complete sentence.

- How are Delphine's feelings about the center beginning to change?

---

---

---

- Why do you think Vonetta colored Fern's baby doll? What do you think about this?

---

---

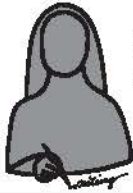
---

- What did Delphine think of the stories in the newspaper?

---

---

---



Choose one of these prompts to respond to in at least one full paragraph of writing.

### NON-VIOLENCE

Delphine and the eldest Anthon sister both try to stand up for their younger sisters, but Sister Mukumbu stops it from going any further than words.

**What are some ways that you can resolve conflicts with others without fighting?**

- » Do you think it is easier to fight or to talk about your problems when you have a disagreement with someone else? Why do you think so?
- » What do you think gets accomplished with fighting?
- » If you have ever been in a physical fight, how did you feel afterward? What would you have changed?

### COPING

Delphine says, "We all have our la-la-la song. The thing we do when the world isn't singing a very nice tune to us. We sing our own nice tune to drown out the ugly."

**What helps you drown out the unpleasant things in life?**

- » What do you do to cope with difficult moments or experiences?
- » How do these things make you feel better?
- » What suggestions might you have for someone going through a difficult time?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLACE CHARACTERISTICS**

What are the characteristics of the People's Center?

**PEOPLE CHARACTERISTICS**

What are the characteristics of the people at the center?

**COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS**

How do people act toward one another?

PEOPLE'S  
PARK

Thinking about what you have read so far about the Black Panther Party's People's Center, answer the questions above using as many examples from the story as possible.

## Community Characteristics