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Racism

In the book “The Lions of Little Rock,” the author’s main point is that racism is bad because it hurts people. The book takes place in the late nineteen fifties when black people were hated by white people for the color of their skin. This hatred lead to violence and segregation. Racism is still around today. Though it is not as violent as it was in the late nineteen fifties, there is still, sadly, violence and segregation.

In the nineteen fifties racism was so intense that if a black person was on the same side of the street as a white person the black person would have to move to the other side of the street. This type of mindset is seen in The Lions of Little Rock when Marlee’s dad would not allow her to even think about being friends with Liz, as shown in the following quote: “She was your friend. Now she’s someone else.” This is terrible, because Liz was Marlee’s only real friend. Marlee is now forced to forget Liz for the outlandish reason of the color of Liz’s skin. Since she has no communication with Liz, this only makes Marlee feel more stressed and worried for Liz.

Not only has racism torn relationships, horrible violence and segregation has also come from racism. This is found later in the story when Marlee and her father are having a conversation about a boy named Emmett Till.

“‘Did he get hurt?’ I asked, thinking of Red and JT and the egg cartons.

‘He was murdered.’

‘For talking to a white woman?’”

This quote indicates that blacks were treated like lower, unimportant creatures. It is horrifying to think about a man being brutally murdered for making small talk with a woman of different skin. This also shows that black people lived with unfair, biased laws.

Though it is not the same as it was in the nineteen fifties, racism is still around today. Unfortunately, it is not only whites who are racist towards blacks, but blacks seem to be racist towards whites. For example, blacks claim that white police officers are targeting them for their race. As a result, some blacks have gone to the extreme of killing white cops because of this belief. Also blacks have separate graduations and dating sites. But if there were a white dating site, many would consider that racist. In recent months, both blacks and whites have caused violent riots. Sadly it seems not much has changed since the nineteen fifties, as seen in this quote:

“There was a crash and the sound of breaking glass.

A screech of wheels, driving off.

And then, an explosion.”

This quote shows a black hater trying to kill some blacks. But today, both sides seem to committing racist violence. In the nineteen fifties violence mostly came from racist

whites. But today, violence, segregation, hatred, and anger are coming from both sides, and nothing but sadness, loss, and torn relationships comes from racism.

Racism is bad and should never be done because it hurts people both mentally and physically for unnecessary and unreasonable reasons.