

Deafness: Sounds Like Home (Non-Fiction)

Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Gain a better understanding of the challenges encountered by individuals who are deaf or have profound hearing loss as they navigate between oral language and sign language communities.

Synopsis

Born with typical hearing, Mary Herring Wright began to lose her hearing at age 8 and was deaf by age 10. This memoir documents Wright's transition from a hearing to a silent world, recounting her struggles as a Black woman trying to find acceptance in two worlds.

Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.

Title: *Sounds Like Home: Growing Up Black and Deaf in the South* (1999)

Author: Mary Herring Wright

Publisher: University Press • New York

For Your Information

To learn more about hearing impairments, visit:

- [Deafness and Hearing Loss](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [Hearing Loss in Children](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. How did Mary discover she was losing her hearing?
2. What did she miss most after she lost her hearing?
3. Mary resigned from her student teaching job.
 - a. Why did she resign?
 - b. What did she do after she left?
4. Do you think she was favored by others or had more opportunities over those who used only ASL? Explain.
5. List the advantages and disadvantages of Mary not being part of an inclusive school but rather attending a separate school for individuals who were deaf or blind.