



## Deafness: Sounds Like Home (Book) Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class Time

### Synopsis

Born with typical hearing, Mary Herring Wright became hearing impaired by age 8 1/2 and deaf by age 10. This memoir captures her transition from a hearing to a silent world. Wright recounts her struggles as an African American woman trying to find acceptance in two worlds. In the hearing world, she used oral language: speaking and reading lips to communicate with friends and family. In the “deaf” world of her school, the North Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind, she used only sign language to communicate with others. Moving easily between spoken English and sign language, Wright was able to bridge these different realities.

### 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

### 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. Why did Mary resign from her student teaching job? What did she do after she left?
4. Do you think she was favored by others or had more opportunities because she could speak? If so, explain.
5. List the advantages and disadvantages of Mary not being part of a mainstreamed era.



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