

THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the novel *The Watsons go to Birmingham - 1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis to the movie *The Watsons Go to Birmingham (2013)* starring Anika Noni Rose, David Alan Grier, Bryce Clyde Jenkins, Harrison Knight, Skai Jackson and Wood Harris.
Directed by Kenny Leon. Arc-Entertainment.



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SAMPLE THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM - 1963* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Christopher Paul Curtis

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* (2013) starring Anika Noni Rose, David Alan Grier, Bryce Clyde Jenkins, Harrison Knight, Skai Jackson and Wood Harris. Directed by Kenny Leon. Arc-Entertainment. This Hallmark Channel film is the only movie of the book.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ Characters: ★★☆☆☆ Setting: ★★★★★

Structure: ★★★★★ Theme: ★★☆☆☆

THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 1 *And You Wonder Why We Get Called the Weird Watsons*

OPENING SCENE: The narrator is 12-year-old Kenny Watson. (**ERROR:** In the book Kenny is 10 years old). Kenny remembers that his family lived in Flint, Michigan and that his 13-year-old brother Byron was always getting into trouble. (**ACCURATE**) Kenny describes a cold morning in Flint, Michigan in 1963. (**ACCURATE**) The Watson family is watching TV in their cold living room. (**ACCURATE**) On the couch sit Mrs. Watson (Wilona), Mr. Watson (Daniel), 6-year-old Joetta, and Kenny. (**ACCURATE**) Byron sits in an armchair. (**ACCURATE**) The TV weatherman reports that it is warm in Atlanta. (**ACCURATE**) Mrs. Watson says that Atlanta is near her home town of Birmingham, Alabama. (**ACCURATE**)

Mr. Watson tells the story of how his wife almost married another man named Hank Henderson whom Mr. Watson calls Hambone Henderson. (**ACCURATE**) Henderson had knots on his head which was shaped like a ham bone. (**ACCURATE**) Henderson told Wilona Watson that if she married Mr. Watson, she would have to live in Flint, Michigan in an igloo like *Nanook of the North*. (**ACCURATE**)

Mrs. Watson protests that Birmingham is a good place to live where people are friendly and the pace is slower. (**ACCURATE**) Mr. Watson reminds her of Colored Only bathrooms. (**ACCURATE**) Mrs. Watson looks at Byron and adds that in Birmingham children respect their parents. (**ACCURATE**)

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QUIZ

This quiz compares the movie *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* (2013), starring Anika Noni Rose and David Alan Grier with the novel *The Watsons Go to Birmingham –1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis.

- ___ 1. In the movie and the book who is the narrator of the story?
a. Mrs. Watson b. Byron c. Kenny d. Mr. Watson
- ___ 2. In the movie and the book the Watson's family car is called
a. Martha White b. Brown Bomber c. Godzilla d. Sunshine
- ___ 3. In the movie Byron's lips get stuck to a frozen car window. In the book Byron's lips get stuck to the car's
a. side mirror b. hood c. trunk d. bumper

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