



*Stella by Starlight*  
By Sharon Draper

*Grade Levels: 5-8*  
*Reading Level: 5.1*

*Synopsis:*

One night as Stella is helping her younger brother go to the outhouse, both see a bonfire and the white hoods of the KKK. Stella lives with her parents and loves to write outside on the back steps at night. They live in small segregated Bumblebee, North Carolina in the 1930's. One of the few stores she can go into in town is the candy store. The stuck-up white daughter of the town doctor taunts her there.

Stella wants to win a writing contest sponsored by the local newspaper to impress her family and teacher. Her father, a pastor, and another man take a risk to register to vote and take Stella with them. This is a dangerous thing to do because the black citizens must pass a written test in order to get a voter's card. These men may lose their jobs.

When her mother faces a life-threatening accident, the black doctor is out of town and the white doctor, one of the KKK members, is asked for help. Will Stella be able to persuade him to help her mother or will he let her die?

A quiet tale told well.

*Author Website:*

<http://sharondraper.com/>

*Curricular Connections:*

- English/Language Arts
- Social Studies

*Lesson Ideas:*

- Students look at the photograph from the Primary Source set from North Carolina. The photo was taken in front of a court house in 1938. What does this image tell about the time? <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/resource/fsa.8a03228/>
- Look at the pamphlet. 'What a Colored Man Should Do to Vote.' Find what the rules in North Carolina are. Would students be able to do the things required to vote? [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=rbaapc&fileName=33200/rbaapc33200.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/rbaapcbib:@field\(NUMBER+@od1\(rbaapc+33200\)\)&linkText=0&presId=rbaapcbib](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=rbaapc&fileName=33200/rbaapc33200.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/rbaapcbib:@field(NUMBER+@od1(rbaapc+33200))&linkText=0&presId=rbaapcbib)

*Common Core Standards:*

- RL3 CCR Anchor Standard Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of text.
- RL6 CCR Anchor Standard Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

*Suggested Companion Titles:*

- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Witness* by Karen Hesse
- *Circle of Fire* by Evelyn Coleman

*Professional Reviews:*

- *Booklist* starred, 12/1/14
- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, 2/1/15
- *Horn Book Guide*, 1/1/15
- *Kirkus Reviews* starred, 11/15/14
- *Library Media Connection* starred, 10/1/15
- *Publishers Weekly*, 11/24/14
- *School Library Journal*, 1/1/15
- *Teacher Librarian*, 12/1/15