



FAMILY GUIDE

EXHIBIT PARTNERS

EMMETT TILL AND
MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY
INSTITUTE



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SERVICES

This project was made possible in part by The National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom, the Maddox Foundation in Hernando, MS, The Institute for Museum and Library Services [MH-249226-OMS-21], and The Historic Preservation Fund administered by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior [15.904].

LET THE WORLD SEE

In this exhibit, you will learn about Emmett Till, a 14-year-old who was the victim of racial violence in 1955. Learning about Emmett's story can be a challenging experience and can bring on strong emotions, especially in children. Some guidance for younger visitors may be helpful. Start by explaining that emotions are a natural part of life and can help us identify issues that we care about.

AS YOU GO THROUGH THIS EXHIBIT, PLEASE

BE KIND TO YOURSELF.

- Help children understand that it is alright to feel sad, angry, frustrated, or scared. It is also okay to feel numb or empty.
- It is okay if your feelings seem different from those you are with. Each person is different and will respond to this exhibit in their own way.
- Watch your companions' reactions and take a break if needed. Find a quiet spot to pause and take a breath.



BE KIND TO OTHERS.

- Different people experience and express emotions in different ways. Be respectful of others who might be expressing their emotions in a different way than you.
- Help children understand and respect the serious nature of this exhibit.

In this guide, you will find things to **discover**, **do**, and **reflect** on while visiting the exhibit. If you have questions, feel free to approach a staff member.

DISCOVER

Read the exhibit signs to learn about Emmett Till's story and explore the following questions:

- How did Mississippi's history of lynching help create a climate in which Emmett could be murdered?
- Why was Emmett murdered?
- Why did Emmett's mother insist on having an open-casket funeral?
- How did Emmett's murder fuel the Civil Rights Movement?
- What happened to the many historical markers that were installed in Mississippi to honor Emmett? How did the community respond?



Photo: Chicago History Museum, ST-17500641-E1, Chicago Sun-Times Collection

DO

LOOK CLOSELY

Choose a photo, sketch, or object in the exhibit and look at it closely. Ask your group to reflect on the following questions:

- How does it make you feel?
- What story does it tell?
- Why is it important?

EXPLORE LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Find the display that highlights local history. Share the stories these images and objects tell. Ask your group if anything surprises them.

MAKE A RIPPLE

Find the "Call to Action" interactive and explore actions that you can take to join Mamie's Ripple for Justice. Discuss with your group how you will make change. At home, visit the exhibit website to explore ways to be a changemaker.



Photo: Grey Villet/The LIFE Picture Collection/Shutterstock

REFLECT

PAUSE AND THINK

Reflect on the following questions with your group, supporting any children in your group as needed:

- What part of Emmett's story moves you the most? Why?
- Why is it important to learn about Emmett's story?
- How can you be a changemaker in your community?

CONSIDER THE SIGN

Find the vandalized sign that once marked the spot near where Emmett's body was found. Consider these questions:

- How does this sign demonstrate that Emmett's story is still relevant today?
- What can we learn from the sign and its legacy?



Photo: Emmett Till Interpretive Center

LEARN MORE

Check out the following resources to learn more about Emmett's story.

- **The Emmett Till Memory Project**, available at www.tillapp.emmett-till.org
- ***Midnight without a Moon***, a novel by Linda Williams Jackson
It's 1955 and 13-year-old Rose knows firsthand how dangerous life under Jim Crow can be. When Emmett Till is murdered a few towns over, Rose realizes that a movement for change is beginning—and that she can be part of it.



Photo: Everett Collection/Alamy

- ***Sometimes Good Can Come Out of a Bad Situation*** by Katina Rankin
As Tonya tells the story of Emmett Till to her children, a new generation learns about the racist murder that empowered the Civil Rights Movement.
- ***The Murder of Emmett Till: A Graphic History*** by Karlos K. Hill and David Dodson
This powerful graphic novel tells Emmett Till's story through the use of both words and images. The book also offers historical context of the events and relevant documents, such as a transcript of the trial, as well as other resources.