

STUDENT GUIDE

EXHIBIT PARTNERS

EMMETT TILL AND
MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY
INSTITUTE



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SERVICES

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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

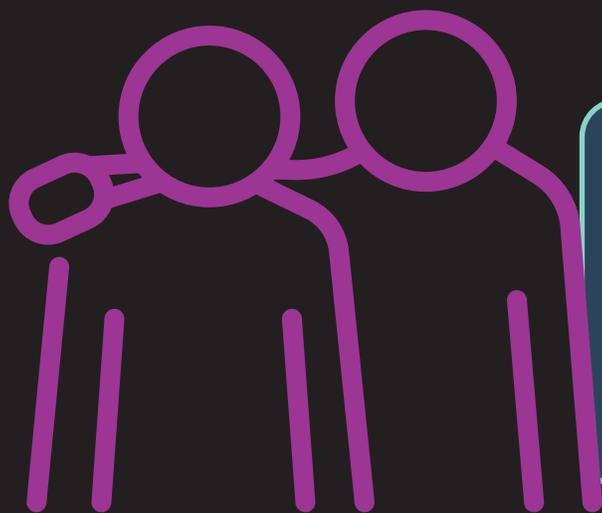
BE KIND TO YOURSELF.

- It is okay if you feel sad, angry, frustrated, or scared. It is also okay if you feel numb or empty.
- It is okay if your feelings seem different from those of your classmates. You are you, and you will respond to this exhibit in your own way.
- 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.
- Respect the serious nature of this exhibit. Save silliness for another time.



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?

EXAMINE COURTROOM IMAGES

Find the "Documenting History" interactive display to explore the courtroom photographs and sketches. How does viewing these images add to your understanding of the trial?



Photo: Grey Villet/The LIFE Picture Collection/Shutterstock

EXPLORE LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Find the display that highlights local history. What stories do these images and objects tell? Does anything surprise you?

MAKE A RIPPLE

Find the "Call to Action" interactive display and explore actions that you can take to join Mamie's Ripple for Justice. How will you make change?

REFLECT

PAUSE AND THINK

Reflect on the following questions, either individually or quietly with a partner:

- 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

- *A Wreath for Emmett Till*, a collection of poems written by Marilyn Nelson and illustrated by Philippe Lardy
- *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.