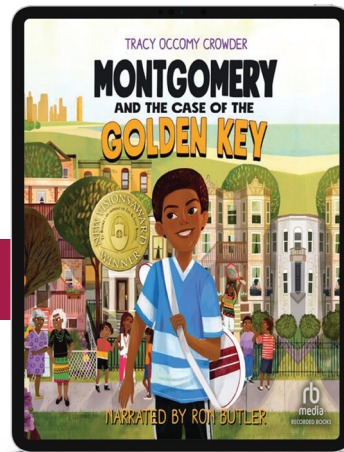


# Libby.



November 7-21, 2024

Dear Readers

By the time the first day of summer in 2008 arrives, Washington Park on the Southside of Chicago has become the center of the universe. Barack Obama (who lives three blocks away) is running for President for the first time and the World Olympic Committee is still making up its mind about whether the 2016 Olympics will take place in Chicago, with a main stadium in Washington Park. On this fateful day, Montgomery “Monty” Carver, a Washington Park resident with a perfectly round ‘fro, sneaks his birthday gift – a metal detector – out of its hiding place in the closet before his parents actually give it to him (uh-oh!). He and his friends use it to find a golden key in his landlord’s sunflower garden.

What starts out as a simple but exciting find turns out to be a summer-long adventure as Monty seeks to uncover the history and mystery behind the key – who does it belong to and what does it unlock? He discovers that the key is linked to a little known piece of 19th century Black history in Washington Park and, the more he gets to know his neighbors, the more he begins to figure out what’s really important to him as they discuss how the Olympics could impact his neighborhood and he hears the news that his school might close.

I invite you to read the book and travel on a fun quest alongside Monty with all of his curiosity and his mischievous nature – yes, he gets caught with the metal detector. I also invite you to follow Monty’s lead. Discover history as you read more books and take advantage of all that the library has to offer. Reclaim and make history as you learn more about your neighborhood and do whatever you can, big or small, to address what’s important to you in your community.

I have spent so many hours in the library gathering piles of books to get lost in stories, discover new worlds and learn about life. Reading has always been an adventure for me so I’m thrilled that *Montgomery and the Case of the Golden Key* has been selected for Big Library Read!

Happy Reading,

Tracy O'Comy Crowder

Join the discussion on <https://biglibraryread.com/join-the-discussion>.