

# Growing Up in Grosse Pointe During the Civil Rights Movement: A Personal Account of Race, Class, and Privilege

I grew up in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, a wealthy, predominantly white suburb of Detroit. My parents were both teachers, and we lived in a comfortable home with a big backyard. I had a happy childhood, filled with friends, family, and activities.



## The Fort: Growing Up in Grosse Pointe During the Civil Rights Movement by David Graeber

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But I was also aware of the racial divide that existed between Grosse Pointe and the surrounding communities. I remember seeing the news reports about the Civil Rights Movement, and I knew that there was a lot of injustice and inequality in the world.

I started to question my own privilege and the role that I played in perpetuating the racial divide. I realized that I had a responsibility to speak

out against injustice, and to work towards a more just and equitable society.

I'm sharing my story because I believe that it's important for white people to understand the role that they play in perpetuating racial inequality. We need to be willing to listen to the experiences of people of color, and to challenge our own assumptions about race.

I hope that my story will inspire others to speak out against injustice, and to work towards a more just and equitable world.

### **Growing Up White in Grosse Pointe**

Grosse Pointe is a beautiful community, with tree-lined streets, stately homes, and a strong sense of community. I was fortunate to grow up in such a privileged environment.

But Grosse Pointe is also a very segregated community. The vast majority of residents are white, and there are very few people of color. This segregation has a profound impact on the lives of its residents.

For white residents, Grosse Pointe provides a safe and comfortable environment. We have access to excellent schools, parks, and recreation facilities. We have a strong sense of community, and we are proud of our town.

But for people of color, Grosse Pointe can be a very different experience. They often face discrimination and hostility, and they may feel like they don't belong.

I remember one time when I was in elementary school, I was playing with a group of friends when a black boy walked by. One of my friends said, "Ew,

look at that n\*\*\*\*." I was shocked and horrified. I had never heard that word before, and I didn't know what it meant.

My friend explained that it was a slur used to describe black people. I was so ashamed and embarrassed. I didn't know what to say, so I just stood there silently.

That incident taught me a lot about the racism that exists in our society. I realized that even in a wealthy, privileged community like Grosse Pointe, there is still a lot of prejudice and ignorance.

## **The Civil Rights Movement**

The Civil Rights Movement was a time of great change and upheaval in our country. I was too young to remember the early days of the movement, but I was old enough to witness the impact it had on our community.

In 1963, the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom brought together over 200,000 people from all over the country. The march was a peaceful protest against racial discrimination, and it helped to raise awareness of the Civil Rights Movement.

The march also had a profound impact on me. I remember watching it on TV with my parents, and I was inspired by the courage and determination of the marchers. I realized that I had a responsibility to speak out against injustice, and to work towards a more just and equitable society.

The Civil Rights Movement achieved many important victories, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Racism and discrimination still exist in our

society today, and we need to continue to work towards a more just and equitable world.

## My Responsibility

As a white person, I have a responsibility to speak out against racism and discrimination. I need to challenge my own assumptions about race, and I need to be willing to listen to the experiences of people of color.

I also need to work towards a more just and equitable society. I can do this by supporting organizations that are working to fight racism, by speaking out against injustice, and by challenging my own assumptions about race.

I believe that we can create a more just and equitable world, but it will take all of us working together. We need to be willing to listen to each other, to challenge our own assumptions, and to work towards a better future.



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