

## In the Heart of the Ole' Miss Storm

In the autumn breeze of '62,  
A tale unfolds, both harsh and true.  
At Ole Miss, in Mississippi's grasp,  
A riot stirred, a turbulent gasp.

James Meredith, a lone black soul,  
Strived for rights, a challenging goal.  
Against the tide of segregation's hold,  
He sought admission, brave and bold.

Governor Barnett took his stand,  
Defying rights, with a heavy hand.  
Segregation's banner, he held high,  
Against the winds of change, he'd defy.

Troops deployed, a federal decree,  
To quell the storm, set justice free.  
In riotous echoes, the struggle roared,  
A clash of visions, freedom implored.

Bravery and hatred clashed that night,  
In the glow of campus light.  
Tear gas, shouts, and bitter strife,  
A chapter etched on the fabric of life.

Yet, amidst the chaos, a seed was sown,  
The fight for rights would not be overthrown.  
From that tumultuous, darkened fray,  
A beacon flickered, lighting the way.

So, let us remember '62,  
The Ole Miss riot, a tale so true.  
In the struggle for justice, a seed was sown,  
And from its roots, new strength has grown.

## References

- BBC. (1962, October 1). *BBC on this day | 1 | 1962: Mississippi race riots over First Black Student*. BBC News.  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/1/newsid\\_2538000/2538169.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/october/1/newsid_2538000/2538169.stm)
- Brodsky, M. (2020, January 10). *Ole miss riot (1962)* • •.  
<https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/ole-miss-riot-1962/>
- David. (2002, September 27). *40 years after infamy, ole miss looks to reflect and heal*. The New York Times.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2002/09/27/us/40-years-after-infamy-ole-miss-looks-to-reflect-and-heal.html>
- Elliott, D. (2012, October 1). *Integrating ole miss: A transformative, deadly riot*. NPR.  
<https://www.npr.org/2012/10/01/161573289/integrating-ole-miss-a-transformative-deadly-riot>
- James Meredith was many things: Husband, father, son, soldier ... - JSTOR. (n.d.).  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2962922>