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**Civil Rights Movement,** **1960s**

Freedom on the Menu, Carole Boston Weatherford, Dial Books for Young Readers, 2005.

(Fictional characters in fiction situations, but in the context of a real historical period.)

The story is narrated in first person through the eyes of a little girl, Connie. This takes place in Greensboro, during the Civil Rights Movement.

At the beginning of the story, Connie is a little upset because she wanted a banana split. She couldn’t get one because they were only sold at the lunch counter where only whites could sit and Connie was African-American. Connie and her aunt then drink from a "whites only" water fountain even though they were not supposed to because her aunt never obeyed the laws about blacks and whites. Connie did not understand why her aunt does this. Dr.King then comes to town and gives a speech about civil rights for African-Americans. Connie did not understand anything he was saying while he gave the speech but she still listened.

Connie is nice, determined, and brave. These traits help her because she is determined to sit down at the lunch counter. What she learns is to fight for what is right, and don’t stop. Her sister teaches her this after she goes to jail after she went to a sit-in. Connie learns her sister went to jail with pride for doing what was right.

The story would be told different if told by Connie's older sister. It would be told different because it would tell how she went to jail for being involved in a sit-in. There would be more details about the sit-in and what happened there. She would tell it in a mad manner because she was arrested at the sit-in. A sit-in is when people sit where they aren't supposed to, and protest. The theme of the story is if you are fighting for something you know is right, don’t stop fighting for it.

Through Connie's interactions, readers will learn blacks didn’t have the same rights as whites. There were separate white and black water fountains. Also, readers will learn that there were even such things as sit-ins. They also protested by having marches, with signs that said what they felt about African-Americans not having the same rights as white people. Connie is happy at the end of the story because she knows she can finally get her banana split, while sitting at the "whites only" counter. Also, because her brother and sister were part of the sit-ins that led to the rights for her to be able to sit at the "whites only" counter, where she once couldn’t sit.

The following is a fact from the story I believe is part of history:

1. "Hundreds of people walked up and down the sidewalks in front of stores, restaurants, and movie theaters" protesting for equal rights.
2. They had these sit-ins because they didn’t like the way they, and all African-Americans were being treated.
3. "Families heard on the news how hundreds more had joined other sit-ins."

The following facts from the author’s note I believe are part of history:

1. "Blacks were finally allowed to eat at the Woolworth's lunch counter on July 25, 1960.
2. "Because of the sit-ins, students and other supporters successfully changed segregation in other public places, parks swimming pools, beaches, and theaters."

The artifact is a diner with African-American people sitting at the lunch counter, even though they know they are not supposed to. They are there because they are participating in a sit-in.