Freedom On The Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins
There were signs all throughout town telling eight-year-old Connie where she could and could not go. But when Connie sees four young men take a stand for equal rights at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, she realizes that things may soon change. This event sparks a movement throughout her town and region. And while Connie is too young to march or give a speech, she helps her brother and sister make signs for the cause. Changes are coming to Connie’s town, but Connie just wants to sit at the lunch counter and eat a banana split like everyone else.
The civil rights movement was pivotal in our history, this should not have to be stated. However, most students learn about it only in passing, as the history curriculum in schools still tends to end just after WWII. Even treating this through picture books is better than that. This book, featuring a young girl whose socially active brother and sister participated in the sit-ins, signed people up to vote, and got arrested for their troubles, takes a good look at the Greensboro sit-ins. I like how the main character acts like a real child - she’s proud of her siblings, yes, but she also wants them to stop protesting and stay home and be safe. She’s eight years old, and, given the wordiness of the book, that’s probably about the right age for the reader. The artwork is pretty enough, but it would have been better on a larger book. When sitting with a kid in your lap reading with the light dim for bedtime, they end up looking a bit muddled.

My boys loved this book. It was written so that kids can easily understand what sit-ins meant and how to handle a situation without aggression. All parents should read this book to their kids. This book should be a required reader for all teachers.

We need more of these books told for the younger set; the facts were not compromised. It reminded me of the picture book, "The Day When Gogo Went to Vote" by Elinor Batezat Sisulu and illustrated by Sharon Wilson. Freedom on the Menu is told with sensitivity but I did not care for the illustrations. To me, they resembled photos off focus. It was if the illustrator could not define the features of black people. On the whole, I highly recommend the book & look forward to more in that genre.

We simply can’t ignore one of the most fractious times in our nation’s history. This book was shipped in perfect condition within a couple of days of my ordering it. I used it with students during February, but it is a must read at any time!

Good read for young children to learn about sit-ins from a child’s perspective. The children didn’t like the illustrations that much because they are a bit muted like paintings, that’s why four stars were given, but they liked the content and learned from the story.

Another wonderful picture book to share our rich, if not sometimes unpleasant, history. Written from the first person point of view of a young girl learning about civil rights through the actions of her brother, sister, parents, and historical figures in Greensboro, North Carolina. She has the innocence
of a child as she learns tough lessons and finds true heroes in her hometown.

My 7 year old read this as one of his weekly reading assignments and found it hard to believe that there were rules again being able to eat lunch at a store or that certain people were denied the right to sit at a lunch counter. He had to write a report about why this happened and ways people can combat injustice and it really caused him to think. Another great selection any time of the year, but especially for all kids during Black History Month. It shows the history of entire families getting involved in fighting for civil rights. It helps kids recognize that even little kids can play a role in changing history or doing something about practices that are wrong or unfair. Highly recommend it.

Download to continue reading...


Dmca