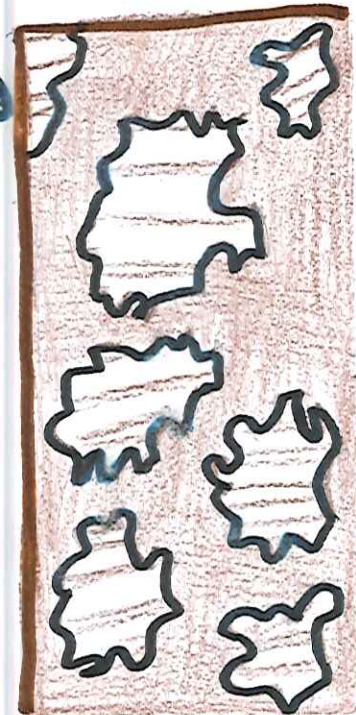


Destruction Into Unity

Destruction
INTO
Unity



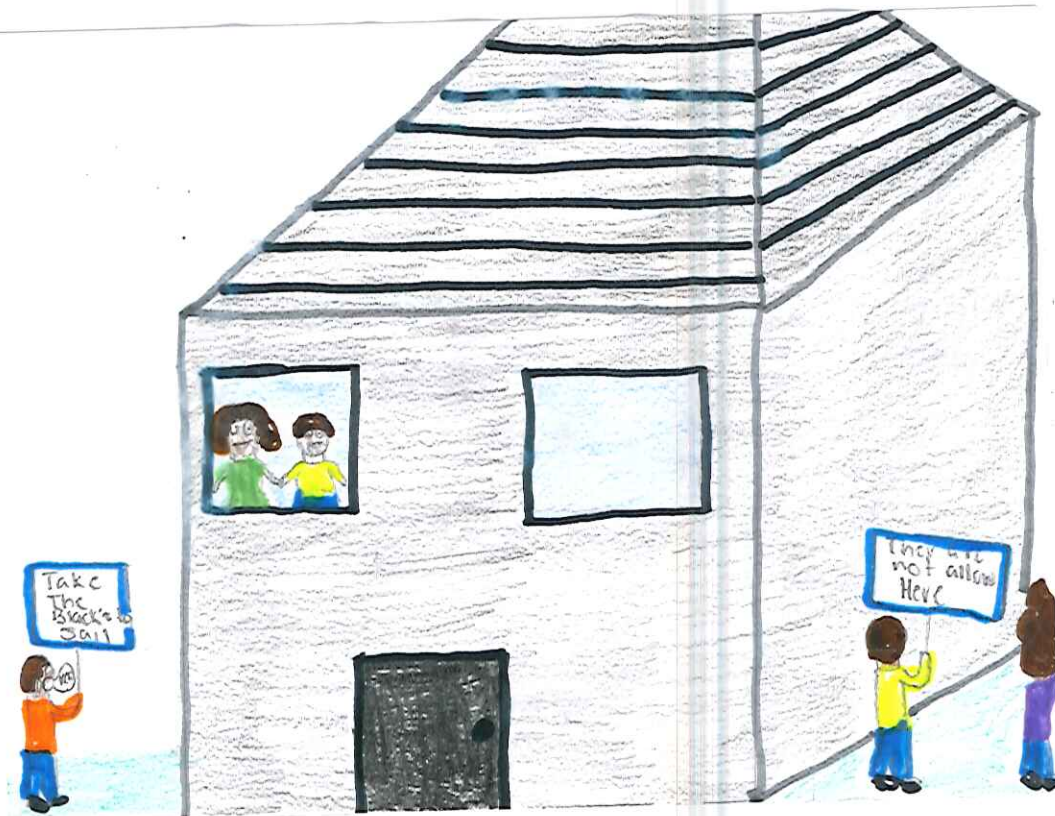
By: Cor'Tionna White, Chris Smith, Dejah Dixon,
Ashleigh Hill, and Da'Mone Smalls

During the morning of January 31st, 1961, the city of Rock Hill was torn apart. As my mother and I sat at the counter at McCrory's enjoying our meal, a group of black men walked in and sat on the stools down the counter from us. Everything was peaceful and calm, until a group of white men rushed in and ordered the newcomers to leave.

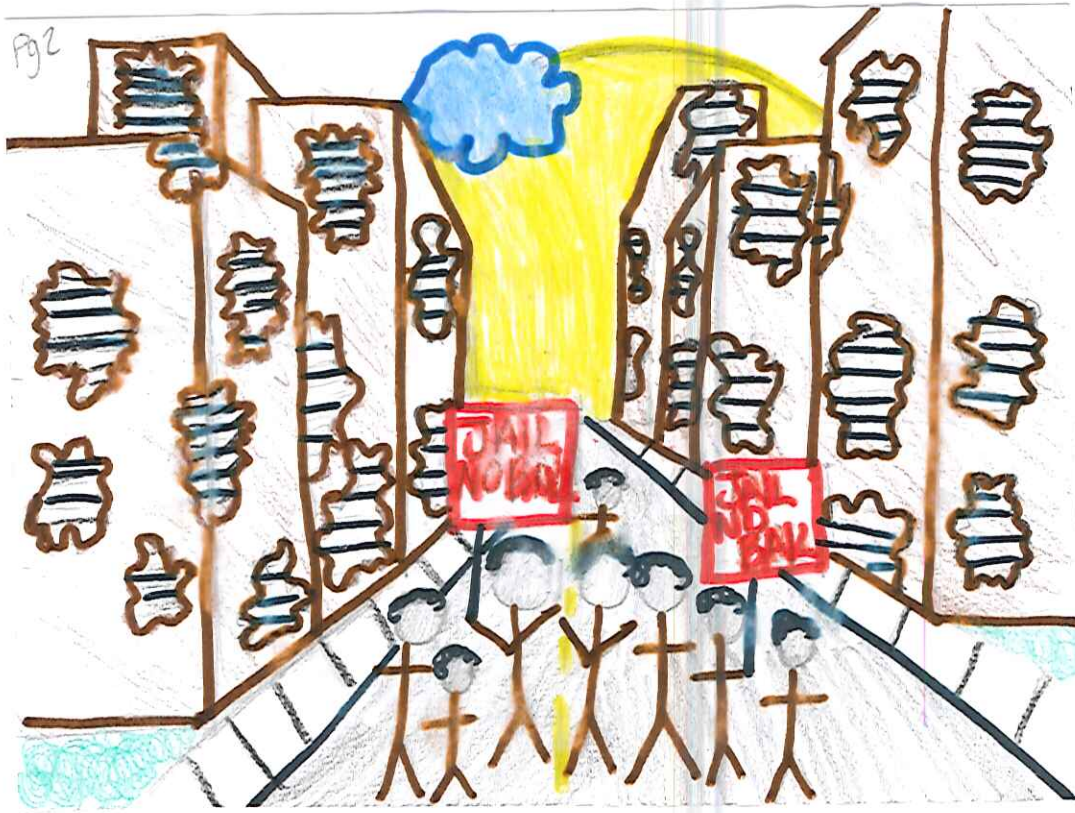


My mother felt that something was happening and she grabbed my hand and led me quietly back to our home.

As my mother and I watched from the window of our house, we could see history take place.



Many black men marched down Main Street to McCrory's lunch counter. They protested and refused to leave. They wanted to be able to sit where they wanted to at the lunch counter, NOT where they were told.



Minute after minute, the fury between those in town and the protestors grew. Officer's tried to remove the protestors but they just continued to sit.



After a while, the officers finally put an end to the situation and arrested those nine brave men.



All of the men were arrested and offered a \$100 bail. The men stood their ground and chose to remain for 30 days in the jail and work hard labor for the York County Prison.



This act of bravery marked the Civil Right's
Movement in our small town.

For this act, the Friendship 9 will forever be remembered. Still today, we salute Willie Edward McCleoud, James Frank Wells, Clarence Henner Graham, Thomas Walter Gaither, David "Scoop" Williamson, Robert Lewis McCullough, Mark Carter Workman, Willie Thomas "Dub" Massey, John Alexander Gaines, and Charles Edward Taylor.

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