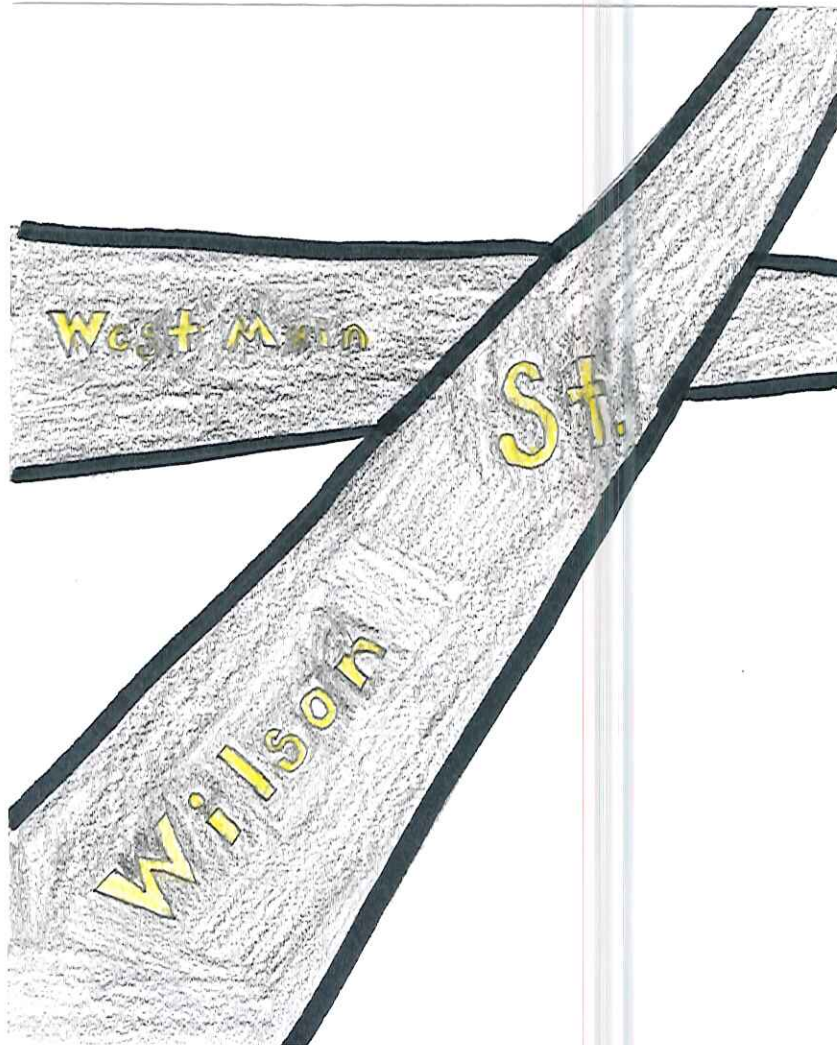


The New Student



By: Nicole Runyans, Harmony Doku, Hunter Copeland, and Presson Hollis

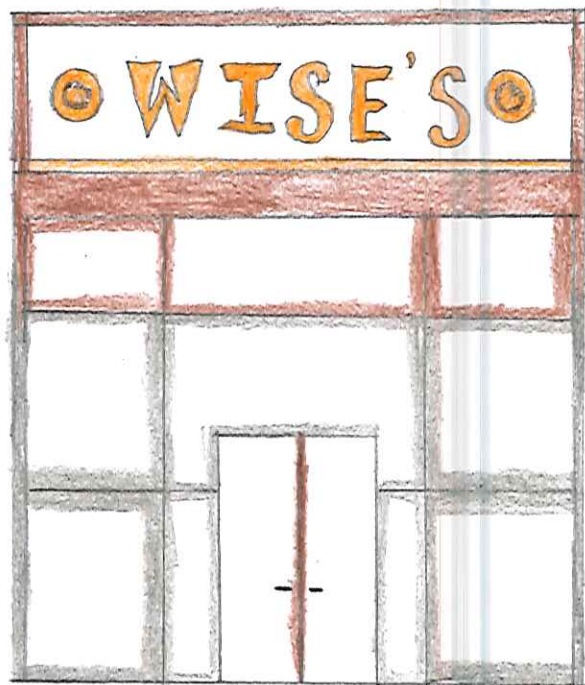
In the 1960s, in the small town of Rock Hill, there was a boy named Gary. Gary lived with his father and mother, Lloyd and Barbara Letterman. Lloyd was the owner of Wise Shoe Shine Shop on the corner of Wilson and West Main Streets. His son, Gary, attended Emmett Scott High School but was soon to be integrated to Rock Hill High School. He would be one of the first seven black high school students to attend Rock Hill High School. This would be a turning point in Rock Hill history.



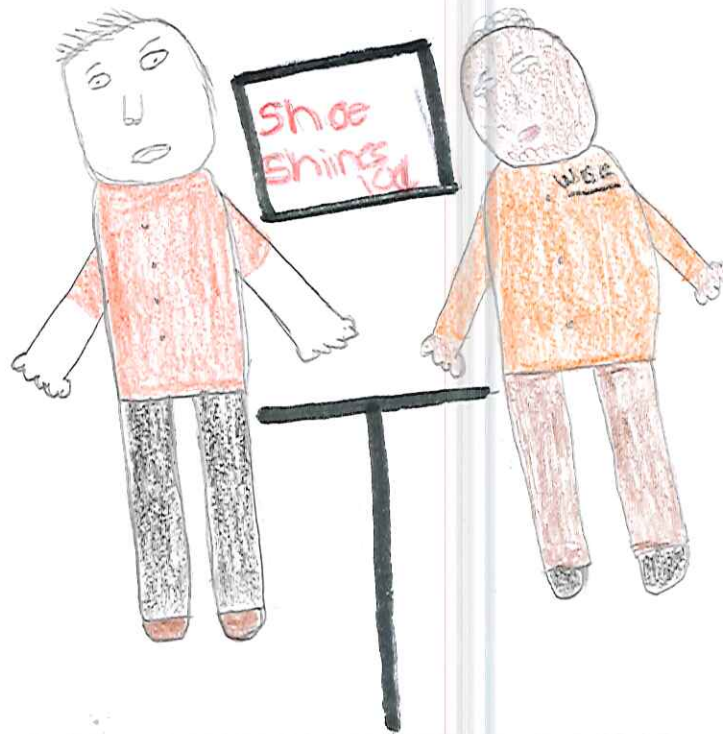
The year was 1964...

1964.....

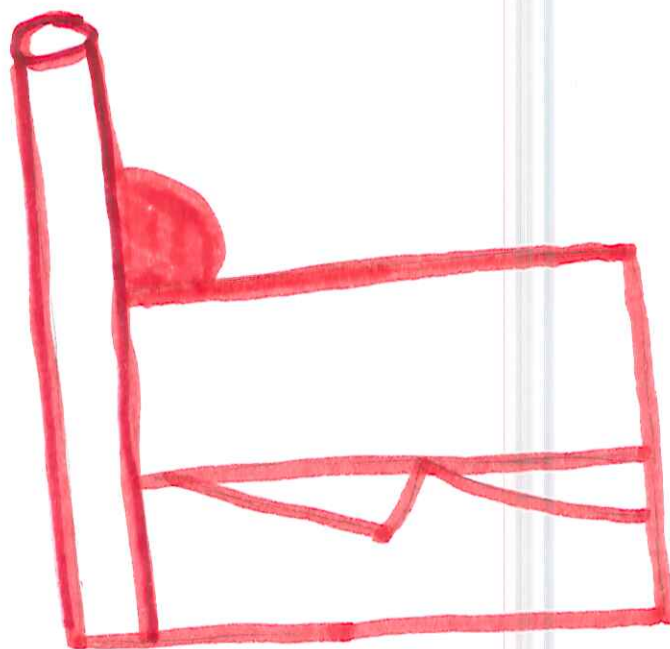
Gary was a frolicsome teen who had many friends, but didn't have time to hang out with them because he had to work at his dad's shop. Gary left school everyday to work at his dad's shop. When he got home, he changed his clothes and put on his apron and set off for a day of work.



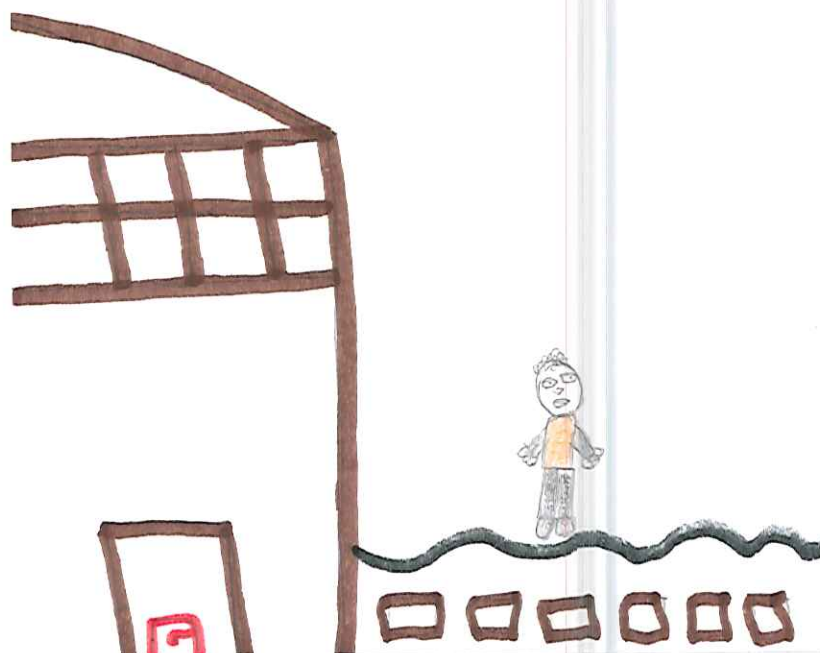
His first customer was a man name Bruce who did not look much older than him-- they had to be in the same grade. Bruce didn't have a very pleasant attitude toward Gary. Bruce got his shoes shined, paid his dues, and went on his way.



Neither of them thought they would see each other again. After Gary's shift, Gary went home, took off his apron, and got into bed.



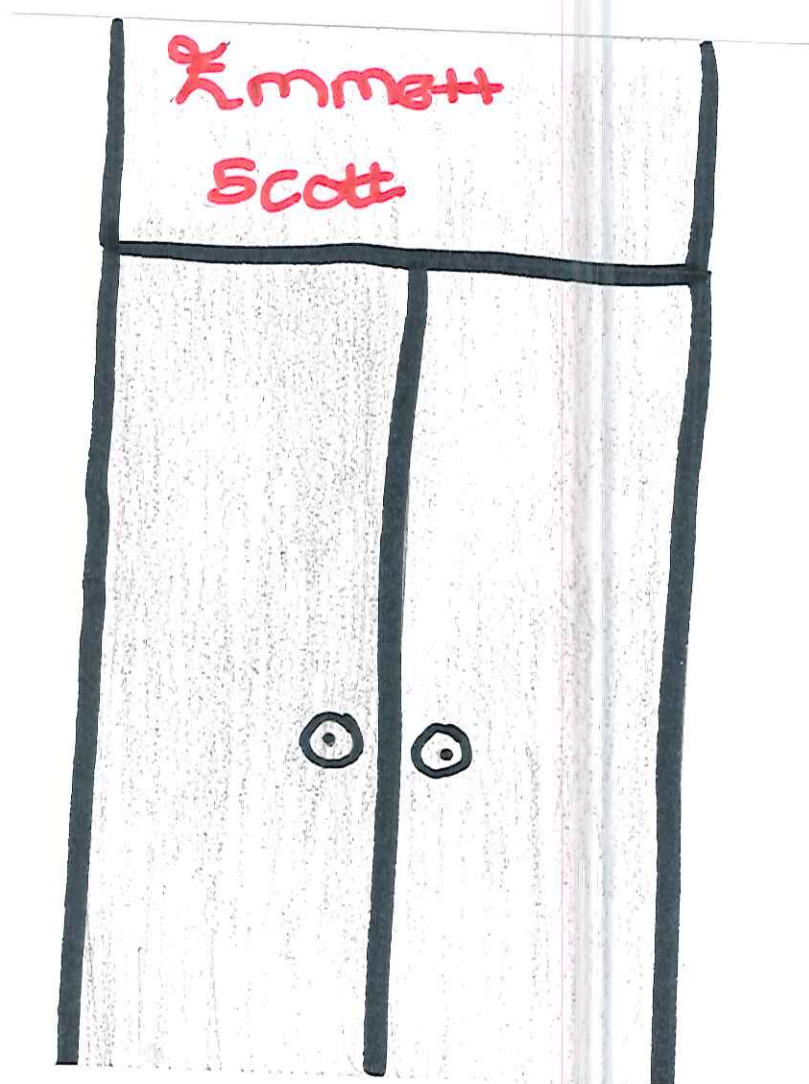
The next morning, Gary awoke and got ready for the day ahead. He grabbed some breakfast and set out for his walk to school. When he got to school, Gary knew that this would be his last day at Emmett Scott High School.



When he arrived, he shouted “see you later!” to his friends and went to class. By the end of the day, Gary had enjoyed his last day at Emmett Scott and was looking forward to starting at Rock Hill High School. He knew it would be an unusual environment because he would be one of the only boys of color.



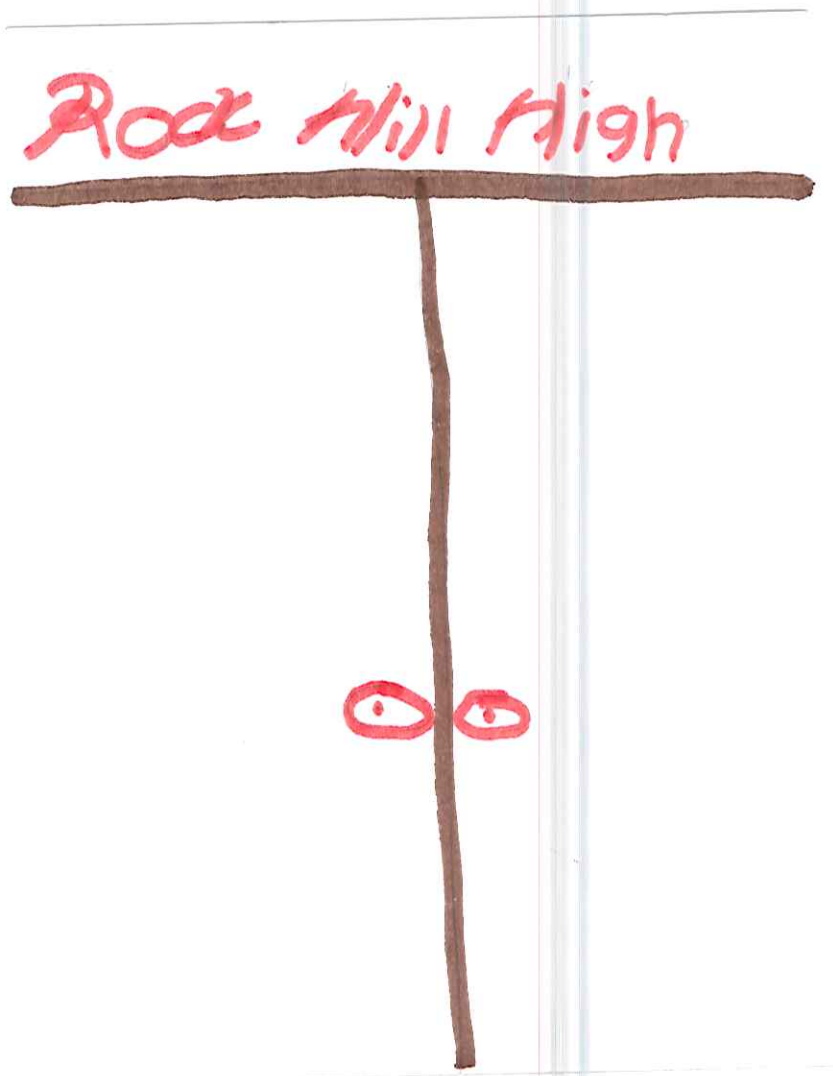
After school, it was again time to work. He put his thoughts aside and headed to the shoe shop. After work, he did his usual nighttime routine, preparing for the morning ahead of him and going to bed.



The next day came with a wicked stillness in the air. He had many different feelings about how his first day would go. He and the other 6 students we're escorted by police to the school for their first day. As they got close a mob of people came in to view.



When they pulled up to school property, they could hear yelling all around. The intimidation factor rose highly and they all became very scared. They all walked in under police force. They had their own separate classroom. Class began and everyone and everything settled down.



During a class change, Gary bumped into someone accidentally and it just so happened that it was Bruce. Bruce began to say mean things to Gary and caused a big disruption in the hallway.



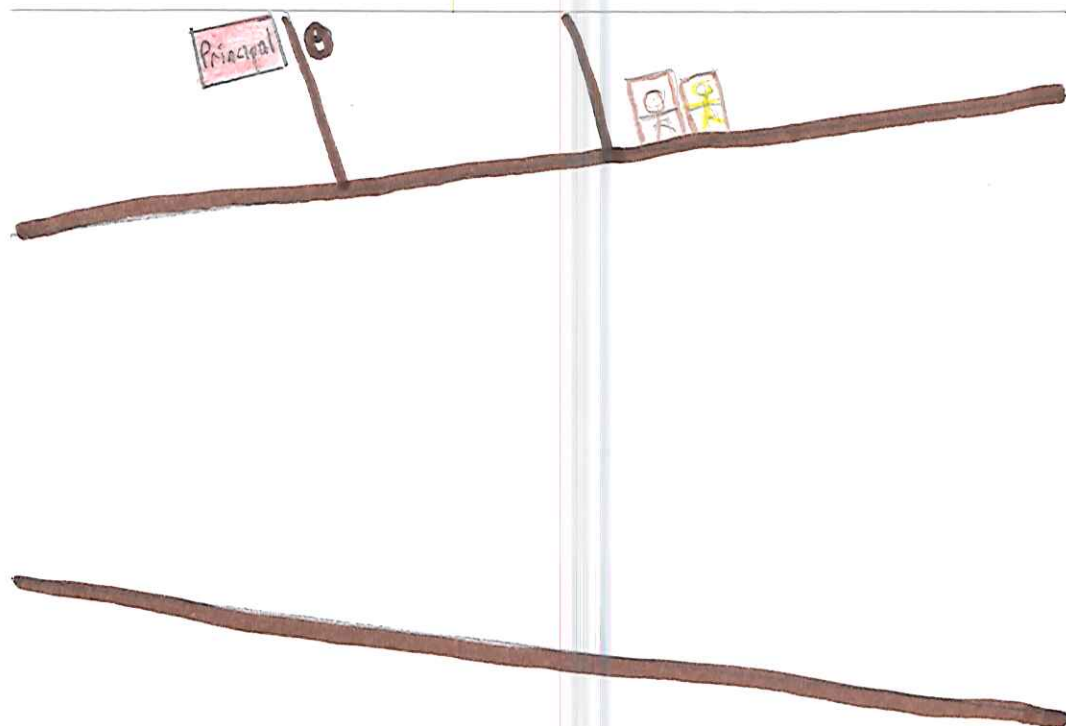
The Principal rushed to the scene and took them to his office. He made them sit there and wait for him to come in and talk to them.

When he got to his office, he asked what the problem was.

Bruce stated, "Gary does not belong here. He is different from the rest of us."

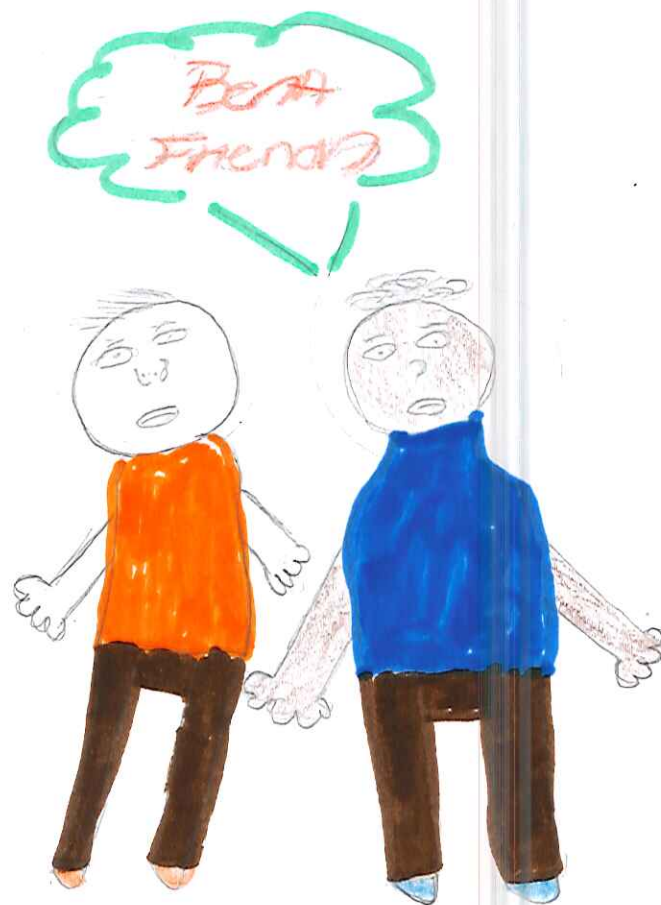
The Principal replied, "We are all Rock Hill High School students now and we all are on the same team."

As they sat in the principal's office they worked together in an effort to settle the conflict that had just happen between Bruce and Gary. Finally the principal was able to release them from his office.



As time went on, they had a class together and the two of them got to know each other and they became friends. Bruce learned how to accept Gary for who he was and stopped being mean to those who looked different from himself.

The change was slow and but eventually white and black students existed in school and in Rock Hill-- together.



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