

CIVIL RIGHTS





Talk About It

What rights do you think all citizens of the United States should have? What does discrimination mean to you?



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Hemos aprendido
volar como los p
a nadar como los
pero no hemos aprendido
el sencillo a
como her

Martin L

Vocabulary

scald	blurted
permission	clenched
autograph	chiseled
fare	spectacular



Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings. For example, the word *fare* has a different meaning than the word *fair*.

Lunch Counter Encounter

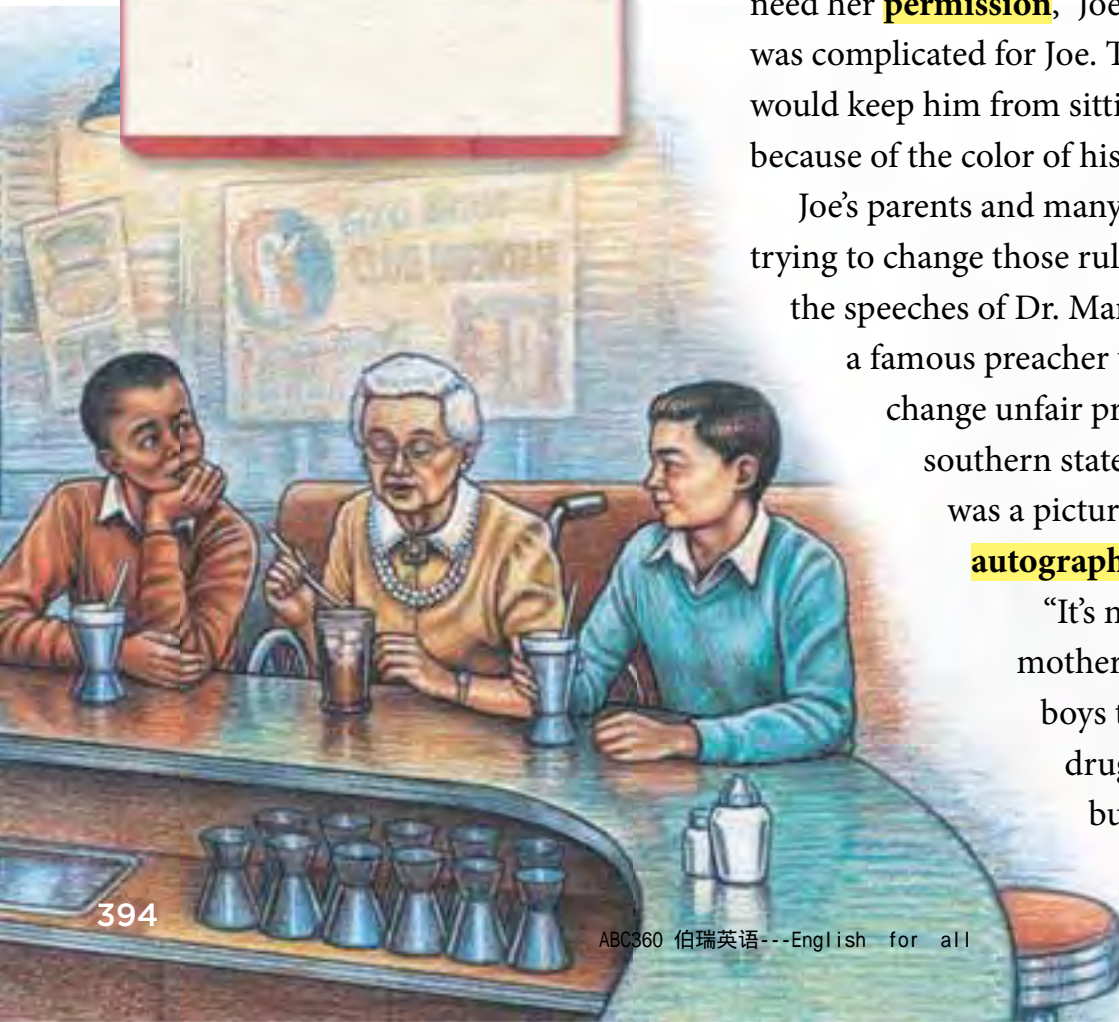
by Ilysa Samuelson

Best buddies Joe and Paul loved to play baseball. They spent the morning of June 23, 1963, working on their swings and working up a sweat. It was a hot day and the Mississippi sun was doing its best to **scald** the boys with its hot rays. At about noon Paul started feeling hungry. He wanted to grab a burger from the drugstore on Center Street with Joe.

“Ummm, I’ll ask my mom if I can go. I need her **permission**,” Joe said. The situation was complicated for Joe. There were rules that would keep him from sitting with his friend because of the color of his skin.

Joe’s parents and many other people were trying to change those rules. They listened to the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a famous preacher who was trying to change unfair practices in many southern states. In Joe’s house there was a picture of Dr. King with his **autograph** on the bottom.

“It’s mighty hot,” Joe’s mother said. “Why don’t you boys take the bus to the drugstore? I’ve got the bus **fare** right here.”



“No, ma’am,” Paul **blurted** out suddenly. “Bikes are fine!” He hated riding the bus with Joe. They would be forced to sit in the back.

When the boys reached Center Street, Joe started to get nervous.

“Dad told me about some trouble here last week,” Joe said sadly. “I’ll just wait outside.”

“Not happening!” Paul said, as he grabbed Joe’s arm and the two boys marched through the door. Paul’s hand was **clenched** in a fist as they headed for two empty stools.

A man with a frown that looked like it was **chiseled** out of stone blocked their way. “Go around back if you’re with *him*,” he said pointing at Joe.

Before the boys could respond, a woman’s voice interrupted the discussion.

“These boys will be joining me,” the soft voice said. The man and the boys turned to see a woman in a wheelchair beside them. “Excuse us,” she said smiling, as she moved her chair toward the man, intending to go forward.

Not wanting to appear rude to the woman, the man stepped aside.

Joe and Paul followed the woman to the stools. She parked beside them and talked steadily as they ordered and ate their lunch.

After the boys finished, the woman met them on the sidewalk outside. “Have a **spectacular** afternoon,” she said. “Two friends like you, *that* shouldn’t be a problem.” Then she wheeled away. Joe and Paul never got her name, but they never forgot her either.

Reread for Comprehension



Story Structure Character and Setting

A Character and Setting Chart can help you list important details about characters and settings. These two features are part of the story structure. Use your Character and Setting Chart as you reread “Lunch Counter Encounter” to figure out the characters’ traits and information about where and when the story takes place.

Character	Setting