

## Meet Connie!

This is Connie Underwood. She lives with her parents and her older twin brothers, Robbie and Tommie, in Oklahoma. She and the twins have always been very close. She loves to climb her favorite tree to read and think up in its branches. Now she really has some thinking to do. The twins have a secret. Maybe that new boy who moved into the house behind hers can help solve this mystery. . . .



## Meet Mark!

This is Mark Jenkins. His family used to live on an air force base in Washington, D.C. Now he has to get used to a new school in Oklahoma. His old school was integrated. That meant African American kids and white kids were in the same class. But his new school is segregated. Every kid is African American. School starts soon, and Mark wants to make a friend before then. It's not easy being the new kid. . . .

It was a hot August evening in 1963. Connie grabbed a soda and headed outside. She climbed her favorite tree and hid in its shade. Her brothers' voices floated into the backyard. She heard them use words like "**sit-ins**," "**marches**," and "civil rights." Connie did not understand what it all meant. Her brothers were up to something. But what?



### **EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL**

Amendments to the U.S. Constitution guarantee certain rights. The end of slavery, protection from danger, and the right to vote are some of them. But many African Americans did not have these rights in the 20th century. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was formed in 1909. This organization works to protect the rights of African Americans and make sure they are treated equally.

**Young men head to a sit-in in Oklahoma City in August 1960. Sit-ins were often organized by the NAACP.**



Mark sat on the porch of his family's new home with two books. He was flipping back and forth between a mystery novel and *The Green Book*. Mark had started reading *The Green Book* during the long drive from Washington. His dad said they would have starved in the South without it. As he read, Mark thought about the friends he had left behind.

