

MRS. SLOANE

All right, Thomas. Go back out to the ball court and bring Willy back here in with you.

THOMAS

Yes, Maam. (he exits)

MRS. SLOANE

(to herself)

Poor child. He's been to country school all these years. Only three black students in his entire school. Now he's here and doesn't know what to make of it. But I won't have my students teasing him about it.

(Thomas returns with Willy, who is also African American)

MRS. SLOANE

You may proceed, Thomas.

THOMAS

Willy, I was wondering if you'd like to come to my house for supper tonight. I'll have to ask my folks, but I can come over and get you if they say okay.

WILLY

Sure. I'd like that.

MRS. SLOANE

We're very glad to have you with us in this school for 7th grade, Willy. Monroe is a wonderful school, isn't it, Thomas?

THOMAS

(to Willy)

Did you really go to a white school?

WILLY

It's a two-room school. White and black. I didn't really think about it that much, I guess because I went there all six grades.

MRS. SLOANE

If we seem to be asking too many questions, Willy, it's because we're interested, not just being nosy. Most likely you found yourself in a really fine learning situation, listening to the older students' lessons when you were in the lower grades, then being able to be a leader when you become one of the older ones.

WILLY

Yes, maam. I've always liked school, and I'd hear a lot of things from the older students and I'd store it away. Then the next year, I could always recall the lessons.

THOMAS

What's it like coming to a black school now?