

**The Rock and the River**  
**by Kekla Magoon**

Q. In what place and year does this story take place?

A. Chicago, Illinois, 1968

Q. Where are Sam & Stitch when this story begins?

A. At a Civil Rights demonstration in Chicago where their father is speaking.

Q. Who are Sam's parents?

A. Roland & Marjorie Childs

Q. What oath did Roland Childs take?

A. An oath of nonviolence & turning the other cheek.

Q. Who are the Black Panthers?

A. A black group planning to bring an end to racial prejudice and civil rights to African Americans. The Panthers provided a free breakfast to poor Chicago children & were planning to open a Medical Clinic to give free health care to Chicago African Americans. Some panthers became armed & militant in the face of prejudice & oppression.

Q. What is Sam's father's job?

A. Roland Childs is a lawyer & also a leader in the Chicago Civil Rights Movement.

Q. Who is Roland Childs working under in the nation's Civil Rights Movement?

A. Martin Luther King.

Q. What happened to Bucky?

A. Bucky accidentally bumped into 2 white Chicago policemen who then beat him with their clubs, kicked him, cuffed & arrested him saying that Bucky had assaulted them.

Q. Who is Sam's girlfriend?

A. Maxi

Q. What did Sam & Steve build in their bedroom?

A. A tower from wooden blocks.

Q. What does Sam want to be when he grows up?

A. An architect.

Q. What is Stick's given name?

A. Steven.

Q. What happened to Martin Luther King?

A. Dr. King was shot in Memphis, Tennessee.

Q. What happened to Roland Childs?

A. He was stabbed by a man at the demonstration for Bucky.

Q. Where did Stick hide his gun in his & Sam's bedroom?

A. Stick wrapped it in a shirt & hid it in the block tower.

Q. Why did Sam put the gun in his waistband?

A. So Stick couldn't find it.

Q. Was Bucky convicted of assaulting the policemen?

A. No, he was freed.

Q. Why were the Panthers stopped while driving Bucky home?

A. Prejudice, the policemen were angry that Bucky had not been convicted.

The Panthers were not speeding.

Q. What happened to Stick?

A. When the police saw the guns in the car, they shot Stick twice in the chest.

Q. Did Stick pull through?

A. No, Stick died at the hospital.

Q. What does the expression the Rock & the River mean?

A. the Rock is solid, high ground & immovable, the river is motion, turmoil and rage.

Q. Does Sam decide to be the Rock or the River?

A. Sam will be a little of each as he realizes his father & brother were also both.

Dr. Childs helped the Panthers with Bucky's trial. Stick did not believe in violence & was more interested in the breakfast & medical care the Panthers were trying to provide than fighting with guns. The river wonders what it is like to be still and the rock wonders what lies beyond the bend in the stream.