

Are they Violent or Non-Violent?

Read each of the below quotes, and evaluate if each person would support violent or non-violent protest. Write **violent** or **non-violent** next to the quote with your answer.

- "I am prepared to die for what I believe, but there will never be anything for which I am prepared to kill"- *Gandhi*
- "Be peaceful, be courteous. Obey the law and respect everyone. But if someone puts their hand of you- send them to the cemetery"- *Malcolm X*
- "The revolution has always been in the hands of the young. The young always inherit the revolution"- *Huey Newton with the Black Panther Party*
- "The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination"- *NAACP*
- "Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country. This is your democracy. Make it. Protect it. Pass it on." -*Thurgood Marshall*
- "If you want to make peace with your enemy, you have to work with your enemy. Then he becomes your partner" -*Nelson Mandela*
- "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn't true. I was not tired physically... No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in"- *Rosa Parks*
- "Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was more politically oriented. Part and parcel of the initial SNCC efforts was to not only go for voter registration, but for political participation" -*SNCC*

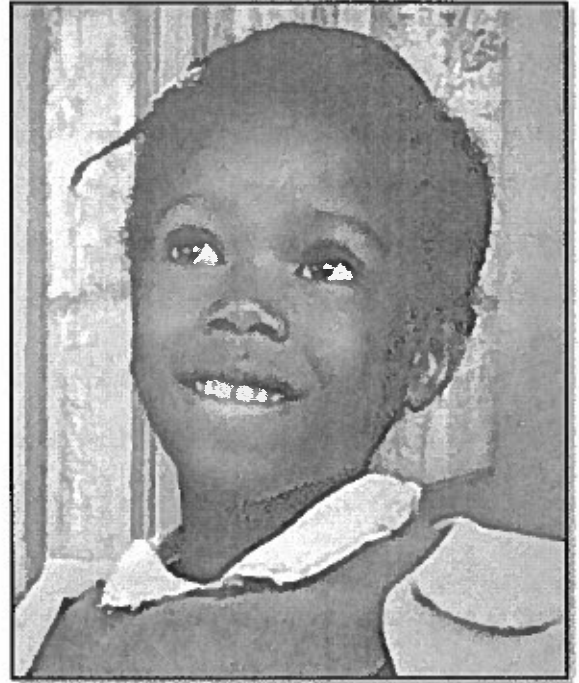
Sort the below groups and people into their correct groups:

Malcom X	MLK Jr.	Thurgood Marshall	Pan-Africanism	Weathermen (Terrorist Group)	NAACP
Gandhi	Rosa Parks	Black Panthers	Little Rock Nine	Nelson Mandela	SNCC



Ruby Bridges

- Ruby Bridges was the first black child to attend an all-white elementary school in the South. She was born on September 8th, 1984.
- She was originally from Mississippi; her parents moved to New Orleans.
- She went to William Frantz Elementary School, which is still running today. It is located at 3811 North Galvez Street.
- Her father was reluctant to let her go, but her mother wanted both a better education for her daughter and to “take this step forward...for all African-American children.”
- The first court-ordered day of integration was on November 14th, 1960. U.S. Marshalls escorted Ruby to and from the school.
- “Driving up I could see the crowd, but living in New Orleans, I actually thought it was Mardi Gras. There was a large crowd of people outside of the school. They were throwing things and shouting, and that sort of goes on in New Orleans at Mardi Gras.” – Ruby Bridges
- “She showed a lot of courage. She never cried. She didn’t whimper. She just marched along like a little soldier, and we’re all very, very proud of her.” – Deputy Marshal Charles Burks
- When Ruby entered the school, white parents pulled their children out, and all but one teacher refused to teach while a black child was enrolled. One woman, Barbara Henry, agreed to teach her. For a year, she taught Ruby alone, “as if she were teaching a whole class.”



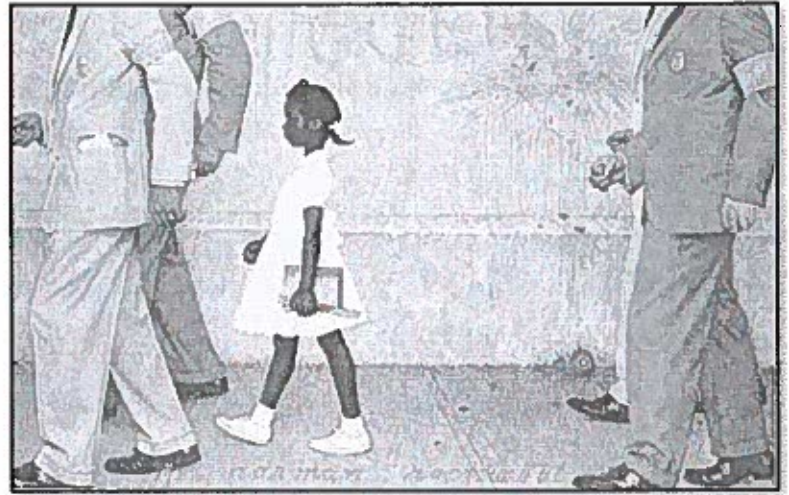
Ruby Bridges



Ruby Bridges escorted by U.S. Marshalls

Ruby Bridges

- Every morning, one woman threatened to poison her; Ruby was therefore only allowed to eat food she brought from home. Another woman put a black baby doll in a wooden coffin and protested it with outside the school.
- Ruby's parents suffered because they sent her to the school. His father lost his job, their usual grocery store would not let them shop there, and her grandparents, who were sharecroppers, were turned away



**Norman Rockwell's
"The Problem We All Live With"**

from their land. Yet some people, both black and white, showed support. Some white families continued to send their children to William Frantz Elementary. A neighbor gave her father a new job. Local people babysat, guarded their house, and walked behind the marshals as they escorted Ruby.

- Today, Ruby Bridges still lives in New Orleans with her husband and four sons. She is the chair of the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which was formed to promote "the values of tolerance, respect, and appreciation of all differences." She, like thousands of others, lost her home during Hurricane Katrina.
- In 2010, she had a reunion with Pam Foreman Testroet, the first white child to break the boycott that occurred when Ruby first attended William Frantz.
- She met with Barack Obama, who has the Norman Rockwell painting of her handing in the White House. He said, "I think it's fair to say that if it hadn't been for you guys, I might not be here and we wouldn't be looking at this together."



Ruby Bridges Today

Ruby Bridges

DIRECTIONS: Complete using the information from the Reading.

1. Who was the first African American child to attend an all-white school located in the South? What school?

2. Why was it such a “big deal” for Ruby Bridges to go to Frantz Elementary School?

3. What is the Ruby Bridges foundation?

4. Norman Rockwell painted a picture showing Ruby escorted to school by Federal Marshals. The neatly dressed, pig-tailed little girl is passing a wall with an ugly racial epithet painted on it. Rockwell called this picture *The Problem We All Live With*. Why do you think Rockwell chose this title?

5. Why did Barack Obama have Norman Rockwell’s painting hanging in the White House?

6. Explain the reason why Ruby’s mother said “take this step forward... for all African American children”?

7. Why do you think US Marshalls escorted Ruby to and from school on November 14th?

8. What did Ruby Bridges see on the first day of school on November 14th 1960? How did she act?

9. Explain the difference between the way Ruby Bridges acted on November 14th 1960 and the way other Southern whites acted on this day?

10. Name two repercussions Ruby's family faced as a result of her going to a once segregated school.

11. Ruby saw and heard many awful things during the protests outside of her school. Why was the image of a black doll in a coffin particularly terrifying for Ruby?

12. William Frantz Public School, the once all-white school that Ruby integrated, is now a poorly funded school with mainly African American students. What do you think Ruby Bridges means when she writes, "The kids are being segregated all over again"?

13. Ruby Bridges had to be brave in the face of extraordinary racism. Do you think that the same kind of racism exists today?

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

Name: _____

Breaking the Rules

You may have heard the saying, "Some rules are meant to be broken." In 1890, a man named Homer Plessy broke the rules. The state of Louisiana had passed the **Separate Car Act**, which required railway companies to have "separate but equal" train cars for black people and white people. A person who sat in the wrong car had to pay a \$25 fine or go to jail for 20 days.

You can probably guess that the cars for blacks weren't as nice as the cars for whites. Not only that, it seemed unfair to make black people sit separately. A group of citizens called the "Free People of Color in New Orleans" formed a committee dedicated to repealing this law. They convinced Homer Plessy, who was 7/8 white and 1/8 black, to test the law by sitting in a whites-only train car. When Plessy was asked to move, he refused and was arrested.



The railroad Plessy took. Courtesy nps.gov

ISSUE

Is it constitutional to make black people sit in a separate train car from white people?

DECISION

Yes, because the Constitution only protects legal equality, not social equality.

The Argument

Plessy argued that Louisiana's Separate Car Act violated the **14th Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution. It says that states may not "deny to any person within their jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." He argued that requiring black people to sit separately from white people implied that blacks were inferior to whites, and therefore unequal.

The Decision

The Supreme Court disagreed. It saw separate train cars as an issue of social equality, not political or legal equality. It said separating the races did not take away civil or political rights. Justice Brown wrote for the Court, saying that "if one race be inferior to the other socially, the constitution of the United States cannot put them upon the same plane." Justice Brown said there had been separate schools for black and white students for a very long time, and many court cases had decided that states were allowed to have these **segregated** schools.

Out of the nine justices, Justice Harlan was the only one to dissent, or disagree. He wrote that "our constitution is color-blind" and does not tolerate "classes among citizens." He said the Court's decision would lead to racial hatred and increased attacks against black peoples' rights.



U.S. Supreme Court, 1896



So What?

The Court's decision set the stage for many more years of discrimination against people of color. Plessy's case gave rise to a new doctrine: "separate but equal." States were free to pass laws that kept races separate, and although the facilities were supposed to be equal, they rarely were. The "separate but equal" doctrine would not be abolished until the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

Name: _____

A. Long Time Coming... It took 58 more years for the Supreme Court to finally reject the idea of "separate but equal." In 1954, the Court rejected this doctrine in a case called *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, in which parents fought against "separate but equal" schools. (However, that case only applied to schools—not trains, buses, or other facilities.)

How did the Court's reasoning change? Read the following statements and decide whether they are from the Plessy decision (supporting separate but equal) or the Brown decision (rejecting separate but equal). Mark each statement **PL** for Plessy or **BR** for Brown.

- ___ 1. The 14th Amendment could not have been intended to abolish differences based on color.
- ___ 2. The impact of separating people just because of race is even bigger when the law says it's okay.
- ___ 3. Laws that allow or require the races to be separate do not necessarily imply that one race is inferior.
- ___ 4. Just because racial segregation existed when the 14th Amendment was adopted in 1868 doesn't mean it is constitutional.
- ___ 5. Separate educational facilities are naturally unequal.
- ___ 6. State governments have the power to decide whether to keep the races separate.
- ___ 7. Children and adults can be treated differently under the law, so *equality under the law* doesn't mean blacks and whites must be treated exactly the same.
- ___ 8. Making facilities equal isn't enough as long as blacks and whites are still separated.
- ___ 9. The 14th Amendment could not have been intended to force the two races to mingle together when they don't want to.
- ___ 10. Research shows that separating white and black children just because of their race makes black children feel like they are inferior.
- ___ 11. If requiring blacks and whites to be separate suggests that blacks are inferior, it is only because black people choose to see it that way.
- ___ 12. Laws cannot change social prejudices.
- ___ 13. Blacks and whites can only have social equality by appreciating each other and choosing to be together.
- ___ 14. Separating the races in school makes them unequal under the law and violates the 14th Amendment.

B. What Would the *Brown* Court Say About Plessy? The *Brown* court based a lot of its reasoning on the importance of education. The *Brown* court said this:

- A good education is necessary for learning to function in society and for succeeding in life.
- Therefore, if black children were separated out and felt inferior, it could affect their entire lives.

Do you think the Brown court would have said that people could be separated by race on a train? Yes No
Based on your answer, imagine one argument the Brown court might have made for or against Plessy.
Write it here:

Brown v. Board of Education (1954) Name: _____

Different Races, Different Schools

In 1950 and 1951, black parents and students in several states got tired of laws that required children of color to attend separate schools from white children. For decades, many states had kept blacks and whites **segregated**, or separated from each other based on their race. In 1896 in a case called *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court had said this segregation was constitutional as long as the separate facilities for blacks and whites were equal.

In some places, schools for black children were run-down and lacked things like gyms or cafeterias. In many places, there were school buses for whites but not for blacks. Parents had to send their kids across town to school when there were schools right in their own neighborhoods. But the closer schools were for whites only.



Parents and kids protest segregation

With the help of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), parents and students decided to challenge the *Plessy* decision. In Topeka, Kansas, Oliver Brown and several other parents tried to enroll their children in the closer, whites-only schools. They were rejected. In the other states, peoples' efforts to get better facilities for black school were ignored.

ISSUE

Is it constitutional to make children of color attend different schools from white children, even if the school facilities are equal?

DECISION

No, because segregation sends a message that children of color are inferior.

The Argument

Brown and the others argued that segregated public schools are not "equal" and cannot be made equal because keeping black and white students separate sends a message that the black students are inferior. Therefore, the very act of separating black and white students violates the **14th Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees equal protection of the laws.

The Decision

The Supreme Court agreed. In a complete reversal from its decision in the *Plessy* case, the Court said that the "separate but equal" doctrine "has no place" in public education. Separating children just because of race "generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone." Segregation therefore deprived black students of equal protection of the laws under the 14th Amendment.



So What?

The court's decision rejected the "separate but equal" doctrine the court had approved 58 years earlier in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. Now, all-white schools could no longer reject black students. Although the Court's decision was aimed at K-12 public schools, the decision was also applied to colleges and universities. But not everyone was happy with the decision in *Brown*. In 1963, Alabama governor George Wallace spoke out against letting black students attend the University of Alabama. He stood in the doorway to block two black students from being able to register. The conflict ended when President Kennedy ordered the Alabama National Guard to the scene.



Governor Wallace makes his stand in the door of the University of Alabama.

