

Ruby Bridges reading passage

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for grades 1-3



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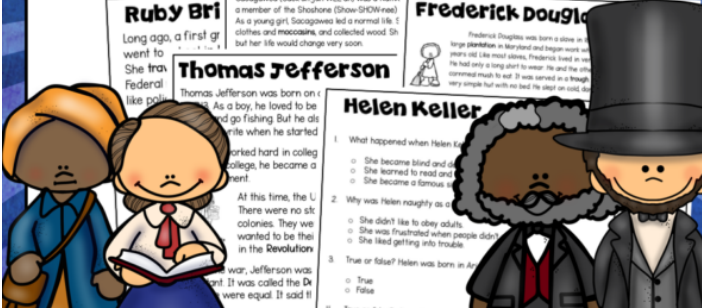


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READING COMPREHENSION

Passages with Text-Based Questions

Famous People



Ruby Bridges
Long ago, a first grader went to school. She was the only African American child in her class.

Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743. As a boy, he loved to be outdoors and go fishing. But he also loved to read. He became a lawyer and a statesman.

Sacagawea
Sacagawea (Sah-juh-juh-WEH-oh) was a Native American member of the Shoshone (Shaw-Show-Nee). As a young girl, Sacagawea led a normal life. She wore traditional clothes and collected wood. She was very smart and very soon.

Frederick Douglass
Frederick Douglass was born a slave in Maryland in 1818. He was only 7 years old when he was sold to a large plantation in Maryland. Frederick had to work very hard. He had only a few minutes to read. He learned to read and write. He became a famous abolitionist.

Helen Keller
Helen Keller was born in 1880. She became blind and deaf at the age of 19 months. She learned to read and write. She became a famous author and activist.

READER'S THEATER SCRIPTS

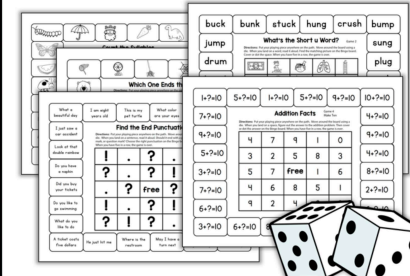
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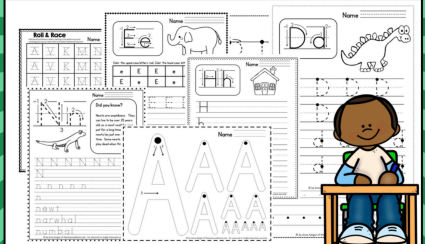
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Ruby Bridges



How do you get to school? Do you ride a bus, or do your parents drive you? Some children have school at home. They just walk down the hall!

In 1960, a first grader named Ruby Bridges rode a special car to school. It was driven by federal **marshals**. These government workers worked to keep Ruby safe.



Going to school was dangerous for Ruby. Angry crowds yelled hateful things as Ruby got out of the marshals' car. She was the first African American child to attend William Frantz Elementary, and many people didn't want the school to **integrate**. They wanted to scare Ruby and her family so that she would stop going to William

Frantz. But the marshals and police officers protected Ruby from the **mob**.

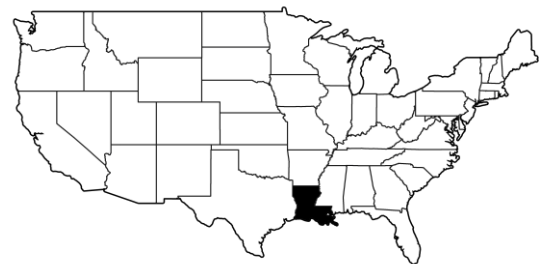
Most white families **boycotted** the school. They refused to send their children to William Frantz because they didn't think that African American and white children should attend the same school.

Only one teacher agreed to teach Ruby. Mrs. Henry was a thoughtful, caring teacher, and Ruby enjoyed being her student.

Ruby's family suffered because of their decision to send Ruby to William Frantz. Her father was fired from his job. They weren't allowed to shop at their grocery store. People threatened them.

But other Americans were kind. They sent money and gifts to Ruby's family.

Ruby Bridges helped bring an important change to America. Now children of all races go to school together.



Ruby's school was in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Ruby Bridges



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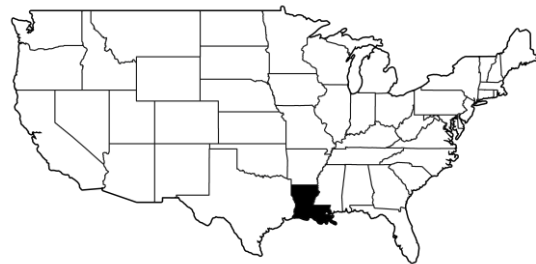
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Ruby Bridges

Name _____

1. How did Ruby Bridges get to school?

- She walked down the street.
- She rode the school bus.
- She was driven by federal marshals.

2. Why was it dangerous for Ruby to go to school?

- The school was in a dangerous part of town.
- Many people did not want her to attend school with white children.
- Her bus driver did not drive safely.

3. True or false? Ruby's school was in Little Rock, Arkansas.

- True
- False

4. True or false? Mrs. Henry was Ruby's teacher.

- True
- False

5. Draw lines to match the words to their definitions.

marshals	a large crowd of people who want to cause trouble
integrate	government workers who make sure people follow the law
mob	to allow people of all races to attend the same school
boycott	to make a statement about one's beliefs by refusing to deal with a group or business

Ruby Bridges

Name _____

1. What is the main idea of this article?

- Ruby Bridges went to William Frantz Elementary when she was in first grade.
- Ruby Bridges had a kind teacher named Mrs. Henry.
- Ruby Bridges helped make it possible for children of all races to attend school together.

2. What are federal marshals?

- bus drivers
- government workers
- school teachers

3. Why did many white families refuse to send their children to William Frantz?

- They didn't think white and African American children should attend school together.
- They thought the school down the road was better.
- They didn't like the teachers at William Frantz.

4. What challenges did Ruby's family face because of their decision to send Ruby to William Frantz?

5. Why do you think that a statue of Ruby Bridges now stands outside William Frantz?
