Name: _____ Date: _____

RUBY BRIDGES



Read the biography of Ruby Bridges and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.

Ruby Bridges was born on September 8, 1954, in Tylertown, Mississippi. At the age of four, her family relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana, in search of better opportunities.

In 1960, at just six years old, Ruby Bridges became a pivotal figure in the American Civil Rights Movement when she integrated William Frantz Elementary School, becoming the first African American student to attend an all-white elementary school in the South. Her enrollment was part of the desegregation efforts mandated by the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling in Brown v. Board of Education, which declared racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional.

Despite the legal ruling, the reality of integration was met with strong resistance. On her first day, Ruby was escorted by federal marshals as she faced hostile crowds who protested her presence at the school. Many white parents withdrew their children in opposition, leaving Ruby alone in her classroom. Her teacher, Barbara Henry, a Boston native, was the only one willing to educate her, and she provided Ruby with individualized instruction for the entire year.

Ruby's perseverance and courage symbolized the fight for racial equality in education. Over time, more students returned to school, and integration slowly took hold. Her bravery was recognized nationally, and she became a key figure in the struggle against segregation.

As an adult, Ruby Bridges continued her advocacy for education and racial equality. She founded the Ruby Bridges Foundation, which promotes tolerance, respect, and equal opportunities for all children. Her story has been immortalized in books, films, and even a famous painting by Norman Rockwell titled The Problem We All Live With.
Ruby Bridges' legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the impact one individual can have in shaping history and fighting injustice.

Use the Video

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 What Supreme Court ruling led to Ruby Bridges' enrollment at William Frantz Elementary School?

2 What organization did Ruby Bridges establish, and what is its purpose?

3 Why is Ruby Bridges considered an important figure in the Civil Rights Movement?

Use the Village