

**BECAUSE  
OF THEM  
WE CAN**

**BOX**

**JUST FOR KIDS**

# BECAUSE OF RUBY BRIDGES

AGES 5-8

BOTWC MINI POSING AS  
RUBY BRIDGES



# THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

*Ruby Bridges was born just at the time when schools were being desegregated in the South. Read an imaginary conversation between her parents to decide whether you would agree with her dad, that she should go to a Black school for her safety, or her mom who pushed for her to have the same opportunities as everyone else. As you read, you will also learn about Ruby Bridges and her experience. Use the conversation to answer the questions below.*



**Mom:** Our daughter deserves the same **opportunities** as any other kid. It's not fair that she can't get the best education because of the color of her skin.



**Dad:** I know we both want the best for our child, but we didn't move all the way from Mississippi to New Orleans to put her in danger. You know what those white folks will do to her.

**Mom:** I ain't never known us to let fear stop us from doing anything. What them white folk do can't stop us from moving forward. We gotta integrate and it's our right. She den passed the exams. She den showed dat she can do this.

**Dad:** I believe she is smart-just like you do. But she's only six. She can't protect herself. We have to protect her.

**Mom:** The **NAACP** reached out to us? You think they ain't gonna protect us. We have a chance to do something big. She gone be da first little Black girl to go to white school in the south.

**Dad:** I'm just worried about her. I know this is big but this ain't just gonna impact her. You know dem white folk gonna want to hurt our family and they ain't gonna stop til they run us out of town.

**Mom:** Well, we ain't going nowhere. I'm done running. We here now and they gotta listen to dem courts.



**THAT FATEFUL WALK TO SCHOOL BEGAN A JOURNEY AND WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD.**



**Dad:** They den already made her start school late and dem white folk in a **frenzy** talking about leaving the school and no teachers gonna wanna teach her. You really think she's gonna be treated the same as dem?

**Mom:** Imma walk right with her into dat der school and we will be there fa her. But we gots to give it a try. We gots to make a difference for our baby girl and others just like her.

# READ & RESPOND

Answer the following questions using what you read in the **dialogue** above.

1. Who is speaking in this scenario?

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2. Which parent do you agree with and why? What do you think your parents might say?

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3. How old was Ruby Bridges when she integrated the all-white school?

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4. Why was it scary for Ruby to integrate?

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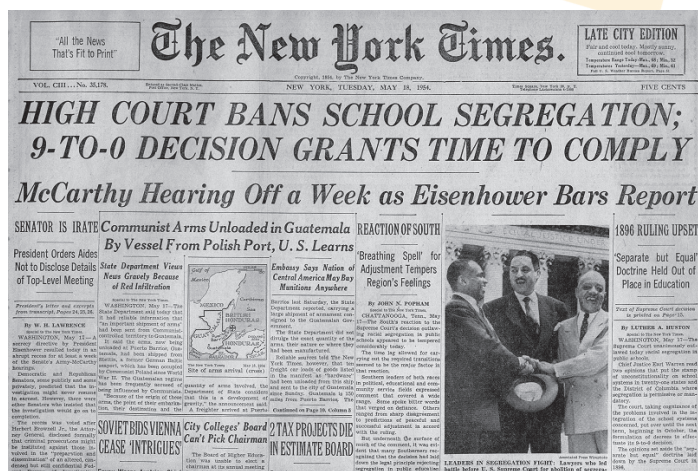


# NO COINCIDENCE, JUST TIME

Directions: There were so many things that lined up for Ruby Bridges to be able to integrate her school. Those years leading up to segregation and her years in the school were some very interesting and impactful years. Sometimes, to keep a memory of events, people will create a time capsule.

A time capsule is a collection of important artefacts that help to showcase what was happening during a specific time period.

Below there are five items that might have been placed in a time capsule from Ruby Bridges. As you read this page, think about this year and the events that are important - next you'll be asked to pick some artefacts for your own time capsule, and write about why you have included them.



1954 is the year that, Ruby Bridges was born, and the year that Brown vs Board of Education ruled to end segregation in schools.



Even after the court case that ruled for integration, there were still a lot of problems faced by Black students who wanted to attend a white school. To keep black students out of schools, students were given really hard tests that they had to pass to be on track to go to the school.



This picture shows Ruby Bridges being escorted into school by US marshals, whose goal is to provide security and safety. This really shows us how dangerous the situation was, with many people threatening Ruby.



Barbara Henry was Ruby's 1st grade teacher. She was the only teacher in the school who volunteered to teach a black student. Although all the white parents pulled their students out of her class, Ms. Henry made such she taught Ruby each day.



Many people were not happy about black students attending an all- white school. Some of them made threats, threw things, and even made very scary signs and images to try and keep Ruby and her parents from attending the school.

# TIME CAPSULE

Now that you have read about artefacts from that time period, create your own time capsule. What items will you pick to show information about the time period we are in, and what people are experiencing? You can also include a fun item that is important to you. List your items and descriptions in the box below. With your parents you may decide to collect these items and put them in a box or bury them.



ITEM	DESCRIPTION

## ▲//▲//▼▲//▲//▼ GLOSSARY ▲//▼//▼▲//▲//▼

**Opportunity** - an amount of time or a situation in which something can be done.

**Integrate** - to end a policy that keeps people of different races apart in a place (such as a school)

**NAACP** - The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is a civil rights organization in the United States, formed in 1909

**Frenzy** - great and often wild or uncontrolled activity

**Dialogue** - the things that are said by the characters in a story, movie, play, etc.



