

Library of Congress LIVE
& The Smithsonian Associates Discovery Theater present:



Children of Struggle

LEARNING GUIDE:

- ✓ Program Goals
- ✓ Read More About It!
- ✓ Teachers Resources
- ✓ Ernest Green, Ruby Bridges,
Claudette Colvin
- ✓ Upcoming Programs

ON EXHIBIT AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS:

Brown v. Board of Education, opening May 13, 2004, on view through November 2004. Contact Susan Mordan, (202) 707-9203, for Teacher Institutes and school tours.

Program Goals

Students will learn about the Civil Rights Movement through the experiences of three young people, Ruby Bridges, Claudette Colvin, and Ernest Green. They will be encouraged to find ways in their own lives to stand up to inequality.

Education Standards:

LANGUAGE ARTS (National Council of Teachers of English)

Standard 8 - Students use a variety of technological and information resources to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.

THEATER (Consortium of National Arts Education Associations)

Standard 8 - Understanding Context by Recognizing the Role of Theater in Daily Life

- Students describe and compare universal characters and situations in dramas from and about various cultures and historical periods, and discuss how theater reflects a culture.

SOCIAL STUDIES (National Council of Social Studies)

Strand VI - Power, Authority & Governance

- How people create and change structures of power, authority, and governance

CIVICS (National Standards for Civics and Government)

Standard V. What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

- What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens?
- What dispositions or traits of character are important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy?
- How can citizens take part in civic life?

About The Co-Sponsors:

The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with more than 120 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 18 million books, 2.5 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.5 million maps, and 54 million manuscripts. Founded in 1800, and the oldest federal cultural institution in the nation, it is the research arm of the United States Congress and is recognized as the national library of the United States.

Library of Congress LIVE! offers a variety of program throughout the school year at no charge to educational audiences. Combining the vast historical treasures from the Library's collections with music, dance and dialogue. These programs provide an immediate, stimulating, first-hand view into history and cultures from around the world. Inspiring curiosity through the dynamic interplay of artistic performance and primary resource materials, audiences are introduced to the Library of Congress and its knowledgeable curators. To learn more, visit:

www.loc.gov/kidslc.

The Smithsonian Associate's Discovery Theater, located in the Arts and Industries Building on the National Mall, is dedicated to offering the best in live performing arts for young people. Each season numerous productions that present classic stories for children, folk tales from all over the world, American history and cultures, and innovative theater techniques. Some productions, such as **Children of Struggle** are written specially for Discovery Theater. Performances interactive, enjoyable and thought-provoking.

Discovery Theater
Smithsonian Institution
Arts & Industries Building
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Ernest Green



“What we needed was the same thing to which all people are entitled . . . a society that encourages us to reach for our dreams and

recognizes us as whole persons.”

Ernest Green was 15 when he volunteered to attend the all-white Little Rock, Arkansas Central High School in 1957. When he graduated one year later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. attended the ceremony with Green’s parents. Green and eight other students had to be escorted to school by guards; rioting occurred when the students tried to enter the school building. Throughout the school year, Green and the others were harassed by students and could not participate in clubs, sports teams, or other school activities. Green now works for an investment firm.

Claudette Colvin



“I do not have to get up. I paid my fare . . . It’s my constitutional right!”

Claudette Colvin was 15 years old when she was arrested because she refused to give up her seat to a white person in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955. Many African Americans resented and resisted segregated busing in Montgomery. When Rosa Parks was later arrested for refusing to give up her seat, they organized a bus boycott that forced the bus company to eliminate its segregated seating.

Colvin now works as a nurse’s aid.

Ruby Bridges



“Racism has no place in the minds and hearts of children.”

Ruby Nell Bridges was six years old when she was selected, with her parents’ consent, by the NAACP to try to attend the New

Orleans, Louisiana all-white William Frantz elementary school in 1960. Norman Rockwell, in his painting, “The Problem We All Face,” depicted the day U.S. Marshals escorted her to school through a crowd of angry protesters. Many parents pulled their children from the school, and throughout that year, Ruby attended classes with her teacher, Mrs. Hughes, by herself every day.

Today, Ruby Bridges continues to promote racial equality and equal opportunity to education through her non-profit foundation.

Teaching About Segregation

Students may have trouble understanding the obstacles Bridges, Colvin, and Green faced as young people in a segregated society. *Children of Struggle* is one way to help understand what it was like to face racism. Lesson plans on the subject are available at the following sites:

Discovery School: The Civil Rights Movement

school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/freetatlast/

The History of Jim Crow

www.jimcrowhistory.org

Landmark Supreme Court Cases

www.landmarkcases.org/brown/home.html

Read More About It!

Elementary Level:

- Robert Coles, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*. New York: Scholastic, 1995.
- Amy Littlesugar, *Freedom School, Yes!* Philomel Books, 2001. (fiction)
- Margo Lundell, ed., *Through My Eyes: Ruby Bridges*. New York: Scholastic Press, 1999.
- Patricia McKissack, *Goin' Someplace Special*. Atheneum, 2001. (fiction)
- Deborah Wiles, *Freedom Summer*. Atheneum, 2001. (fiction)
- Jacqueline Woodson, *The Other Side*. Putnam Publishing Group, 2001. (fiction)

Middle School level:

- Freedom's Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories*. Thorndike, Me.: Thorndike Press, 1993.
- James Haskins, *The Freedom Rides: Journey for Justice*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 1995.
- Phillip M. Hoose, *We Were There, Too! Young People in U.S. History*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2001.
- Casey King, *Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk about the Civil Rights Movement with the People who Made it Happen*. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1977.
- Rachel A. Koestler-Grack, *Going to School During the Civil Rights Movement*. Mankato, Minn.: Blue Earth Books, 2002.
- Doreen Rappaport, *School is Not White! A True Story of the Civil Rights Movement*. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.
- Belinda Rochelle, *Witness to Freedom: Young People Who Fought for Civil Rights*. New York, Lodestar Books, 1993.
- Joyce Carol Thomas, *Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2004.

Teachers:

- Bernadette Anand, ed., *Keeping the Struggle Alive: Studying Desegregation in Our Town: A Guide to Doing Oral History*. Teachers College Press, 2002.
- Wilmer Counts, *A Life is More than a Moment: The Desegregation of Little Rock's Central High*. Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1999.
- Vivian Gunn Morris, *The Price They Paid: Desegregation in an African American Community*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2002.
- Mary C. Turck, *The Civil Rights Movement for Kids: A History with 21 Activities*. Chicago Review Press, 2000.
- Anna Victoria Wilson and William E. Segall, *Oh, Do I Remember! :Experiences of Teachers During the Desegregation of Austin's Schools, 1964-1971*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2001.

“It was high school, college, and elementary school young people who were in the front line of the school desegregation struggle. Lest it be forgotten. Opening of schools to Negroes for the first time in history required that there be young Negroes with the moral and physical courage to face the challenges and, all too frequently, the mortal dangers presented by mob resistance.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr.

On-Line Sources from the Library of Congress, American Memory:

African American History and Culture - Guide to original documents from the Manuscript Division
memory.loc.gov/ammem/mchtml/afrhm.html

African American Sites in the Digital Collections - Digitized materials throughout the Library of Congress collections and online exhibits

www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/afam/afam-home.html

Sources for Images on African American History - Holdings in the Prints and Photographs Division from slavery through the Civil Rights era.

www.loc.gov/rr/print/resource/063_afr.html

W. Ralph Eubanks discusses his memoir, **Ever is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past**

www.loc.gov/locvideo/eubanks/

Lesson Plans:

From Jim Crow to Linda Brown: A Retrospective of the African American Experience from 1897 to 1953, Library of Congress Learning Page

memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/97/crow/crowhome.html

Ruby Bridges, Deserae Archibald, TeacherLINK, Utah State University.

www.teacherlink.usu.edu/tresources/units/Byrnes-famous/rubybrid.html

Melba Pattillo and Ruby Bridges: Two Pioneers of School Integration, Gary Hopkins, Education World.

www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp297-05.shtml

The Melba Patillo Story, Scholastic

www.teacher.scholastic.com/barrier/hwyf/mpbstory/index.htm

Crisis in Little Rock, Chris Mott, Teacher LINK.

www.teacherlink.org/content/social/instructional/little/lrstud.html

Guided Comprehension: Self-Questioning Using Question-Answer Relationships,

Sarah Dennis, Read - Think - Write, International Reading Association, National Council of Teachers of English, and marcopolo.

www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=227

Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Lois Lewis, Education World.
www.education-world.com/a_lesson/01-1/lp221_09.shtml

Riding the Bus - Taking a Stand, Alabama Department of Archives and History.

www.archives.state.al.us/teacher/rights/rights1.html

On the cover, clockwise from top left:

Ruby Bridges entering William Frantz Elementary School under guard; the "Little Rock Nine" entering Little Rock Central High School; Taylor Washington, Ivanhoe Donaldson, Joyce Ladner, John Lewis and other at a sit-in; young woman arrested for participating in sit-in, St. Louis, Illinois; SNCC leader John Lewis in prayer during demonstration.

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