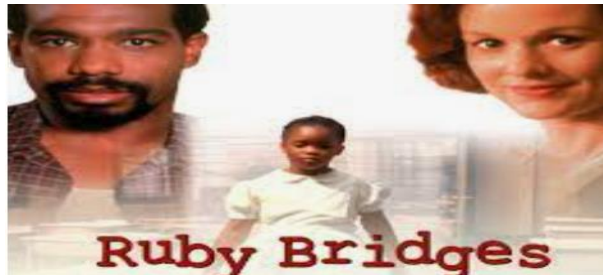


## Gather @Grand Speaker Series



### Ruby Bridges Film Study Guide (Movie # 7)

- 1 Why was 6-year-old/1<sup>st</sup> grader, Ruby Bridges attempting to integrate William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960? What were her goals? What were her parents' Abon (Dad) and Lucille (Mom) hopes/dreams? What were Federal authorities hoping for?
- 2 What was the original plan for integrating William Frantz Elementary School? How did the plan change? How did Dr. Broyard and his wife Alma support the Bridges family during Ruby's attempt to integrate?
- 3 What effects did Ruby's attempt to integrate William Frantz Elementary school have on her? What was her motivation?
- 4 What effects did Ruby's attempt to integrate William Frantz Elementary school have on her family and her community? How did New Orleans city officials influence others to try to get Ruby to back down?
- 5 What motivated Lucille and Abon Bridges to continue to allow Ruby to "fight for integration" despite the flawed plan and challenges that Ruby and her family faced? As the struggle to integrate went on, how did Lucille's feelings compare to Abon's feeling about integration? What caused Abon to doubt that integration would be successful?

- 6 How would you have felt letting your 6-year-old daughter go to school, seeing her escorted by marshals to keep her safe and knowing that people were lined up outside to protest and say hateful things about her? What did Ruby have to gain from integration? Did Ruby have anything to lose?
- 7 Describe Principal Woodmere and Ruby's teacher, Ms. Henry. What were their views on integration?
- 8 Describe Dr. Robert Coles and his wife Jane Coles. What did their behavior show about their feelings toward Blacks, integration and changing the status quo? What did Ruby gain from the relationship with the Coles and what did the Coles gain from their relationship with Ruby and her family?
- 9 Ms. Spencer was the one of the most outspoken teachers at William Frantz Elementary School. What do you think caused her to change their attitude about Blacks and integration?
- 10 What is a common theme or idea in Ruby Bridge's integration experience that may have prompted white people to change their views about integration or Ruby Bridges and her family?
- 11 Based on this movie, what do you think would help motivate/stimulate others to take a stand against language or activities that promote racism? When there is opportunity, challenge yourself to confront others about racist attitudes or beliefs. Keep some notes so that you can share your experiences when we reconvene in September/October.

## Additional Information about Ruby Bridges:

### 9 Things You Should Know about Ruby Bridges and School Desegregation

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-ruby-bridges-and-school-desegregation/>

### In Her Own Words: Barbara Henry's Experience

*"Once coming to know the Ruby Bridges story, I believe there is always a piece of it that becomes a part of you, empowering and sensitive to injustice."*

[http://www.judynewmanatscholastic.com/blog/2017/11/barbara\\_henry/](http://www.judynewmanatscholastic.com/blog/2017/11/barbara_henry/)

**Book passage had an event with Ruby Bridges last December. They recorded the interview, and it is available free. But you have to register to access the link.** <https://bookpassage.extendedsession.com/session/ruby-bridges/>

In 1963, Norman Rockwell did a painting titled "The Problem We All Live With" The painting is of a child portraying Ruby Bridges as she walked to Frantz Elementary School surrounded, for her protection, by Federal marshals. Rockwell said, that, "We didn't know her name was Ruby Bridges at the time, as the press had not released her name out of concern for her safety." As far as most of the United States knew, she was a nameless six-year-old African-American remarkable in her solitude and for the violence her small presence in a "Whites Only" school engendered. Rockwell enlisted the help of a nine-year-old girl to pose for five days, her feet propped at angles with blocks of wood to emulate walking.



## A tiny Marin County district got California's first school desegregation order in 50 years.



Students participate in a math class at Bayside Martin Luther King Jr. Academy in Sausalito, Calif. The Sausalito Marin City School District is under a state court order to end the unequal treatment of Bayside MLK students. (Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times)

By JAMES RAINEY | STAFF WRITER

SEP. 22, 2019 5 AM PT

Go to this website to read the article:

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-09-21/desegregation-order-sausalito-marin-county>

### Next Movie: **Hidden Figures** (story guide available on July 15, 2021)



Three brilliant African American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) -- serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation's confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world. The movie can be viewed on Amazon Prime or You Tube.

(2 hours 7 minutes).

