

RUBY BRIDGES

A mini-unit on a brave African American girl who integrated into an all-white school



A *FREE* Resource - created by Jessica Lawler

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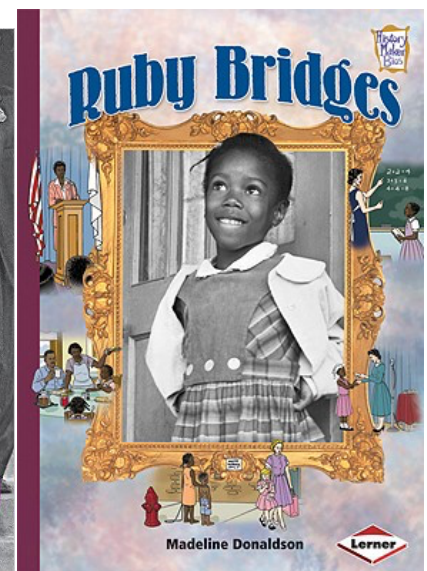
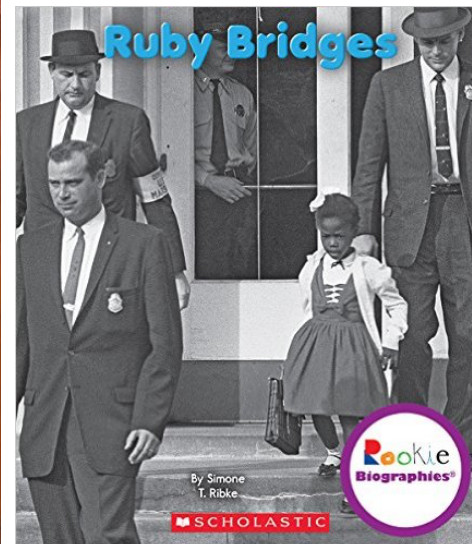
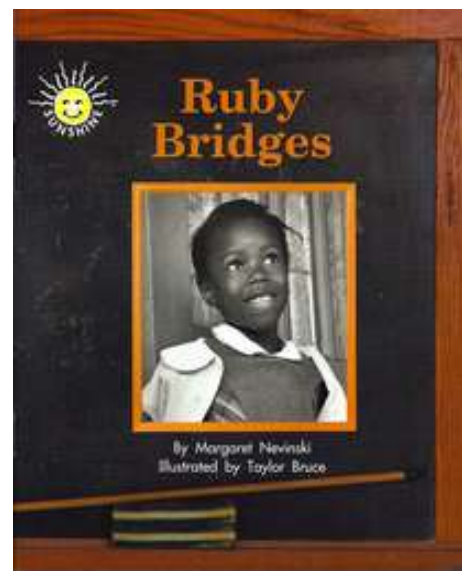
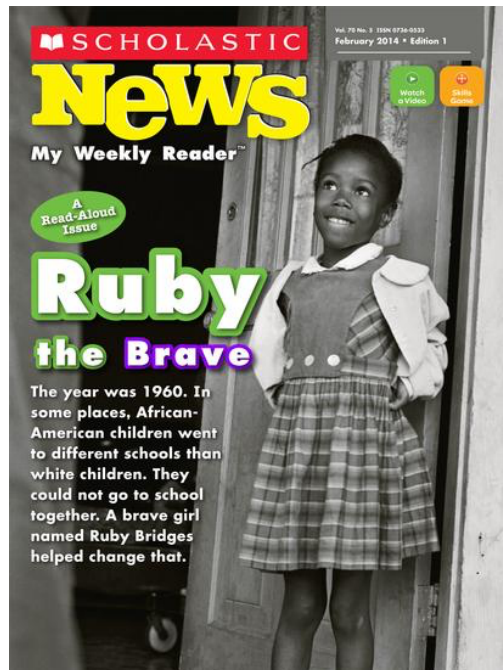
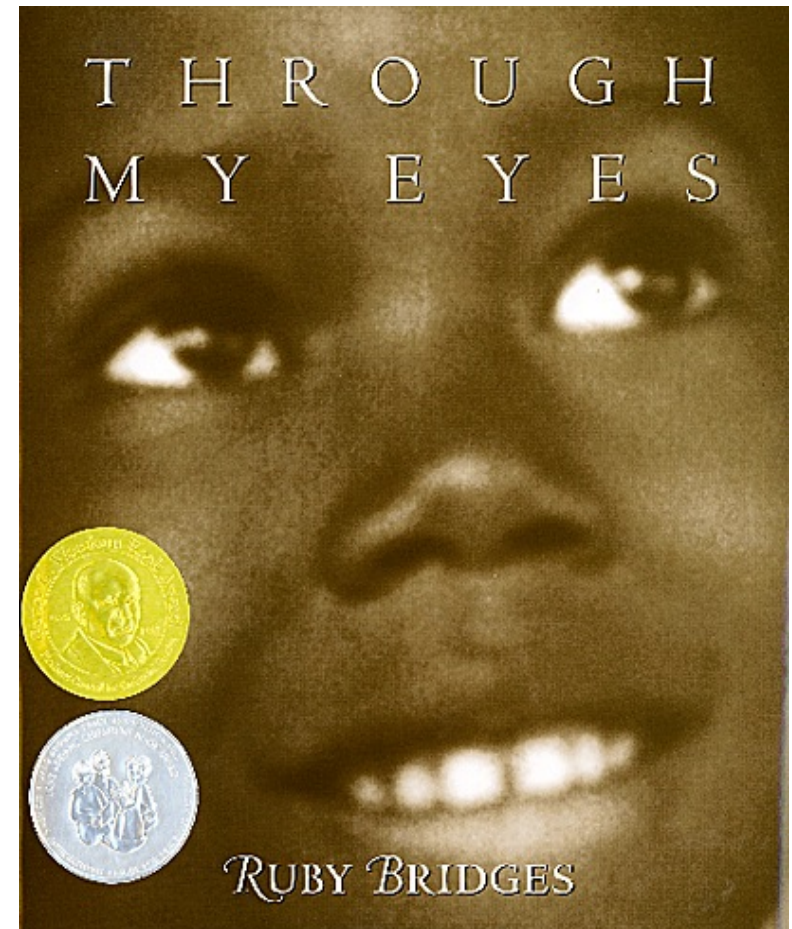
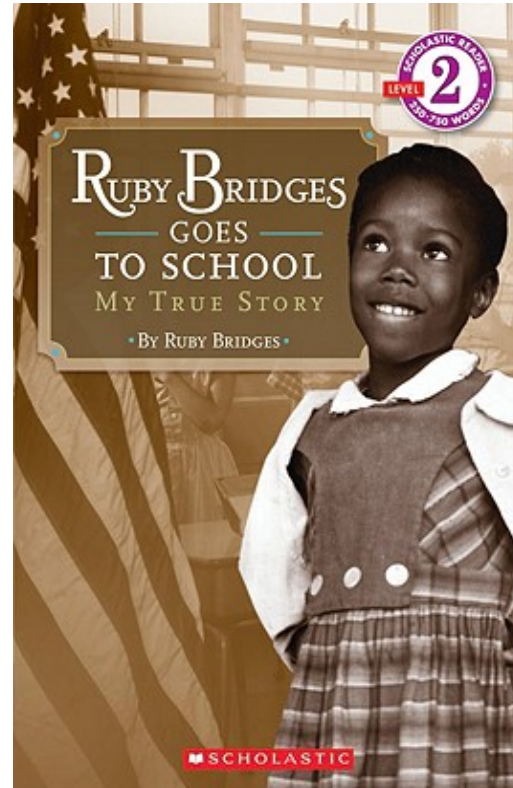
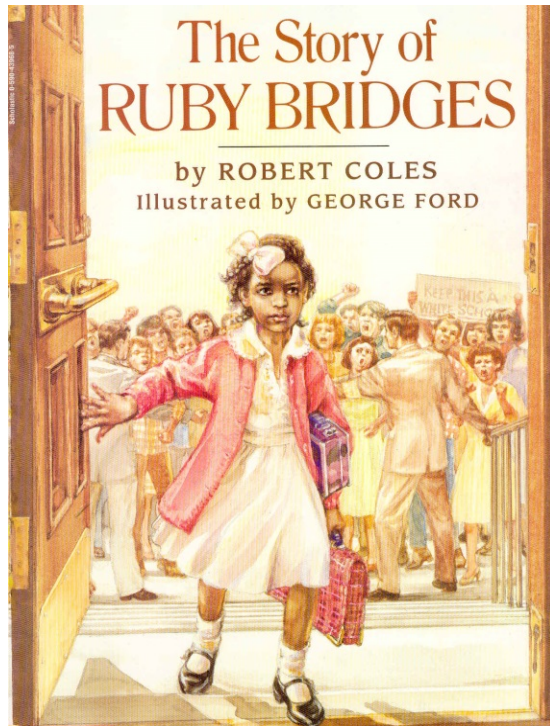


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Sincerely,
Jessica Lawler
"Joy in the Journey"

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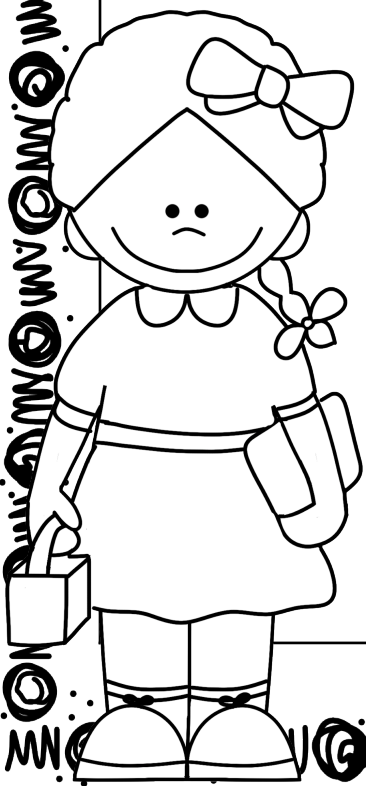


Name: _____

K-W-L: Ruby Bridges

Directions: Write what you know about Ruby Bridges and list questions you have. After you read, fill in details of what you've learned.

What I KNOW	What I WANT to Know	What I Learned



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Name: _____

Learn About Ruby Bridges

Directions: Read this story about Ruby Bridges and highlight important information.

Ruby Bridges grew up on a small farm in Tylertown, Mississippi. Her parents were **sharecroppers**, meaning they farmed the land, but didn't own it. When Ruby was four years old, her family moved to New Orleans. In New Orleans, Ruby lived in a small apartment where she shared a bedroom with her sister and two younger brothers. Her father worked at a gas station and her mother worked night jobs to help **make ends meet**. Ruby was a typical little girl who enjoyed spending time with her friends, playing softball, jumping rope, and climbing trees.

The schools in New Orleans were **segregated** at that time. This meant that black students went to completely different schools than white students. Ruby went to kindergarten at an all black school. The school was a long walk from her home, but she didn't mind. She liked her teacher and she loved to learn.

When Ruby was in first grade, the government of Louisiana decided it was time to **integrate** the schools, or have white and black children attend school together. Many people were angry at the idea. They protested this change.

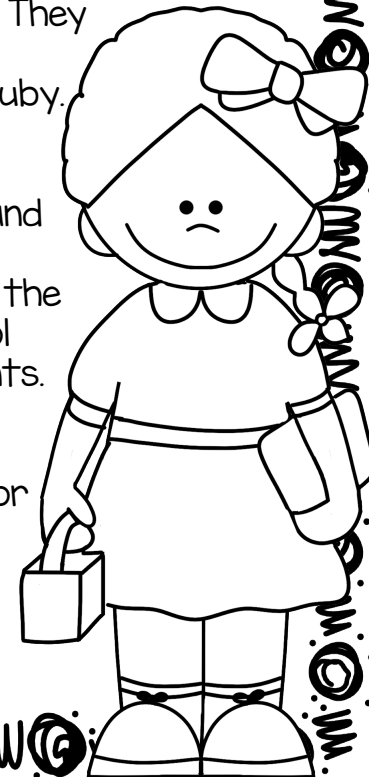
On November 14, 1960, Ruby attended her first day at the all-white William Frantz School. For Ruby's protection, President Eisenhower sent U.S. Marshals to walk her in the school building each morning. They shielded Ruby from the angry crowds yelling at and threatening her.

The parents of the white students did not want their children in the same classroom with Ruby. For the entire year, Ruby sat in a classroom by herself, learning from her teacher, Mrs. Henry.

Although the protesters were mean and violent, not everyone was against integration. Many people of all races supported Ruby and her family. They sent her gifts, notes of **encouragement**, and even money to help her parents pay the bills.

After the first grade, things became more normal for Ruby. Racial tensions settled down in the South as black people were treated more fairly and given equal opportunities. She walked to school without the Federal Marshals and attended a full classroom that had both white and black students. Ruby attended integrated schools all the way through high school.

After graduating from high school, Ruby worked as a travel agent for fifteen years. She married Malcolm Hall and had four sons. In 2001 she was awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal for her **bravery** and **determination** in the face of hardship by President Bill Clinton. In 2014, a statue of Ruby was unveiled outside the William Frantz School. To this day, Ruby continues to fight for equal rights, encouraging tolerance, respect, and appreciation for differences in people.



Name: _____

Ruby Bridges: Important Vocabulary

Directions: Write the definitions of these important vocabulary words. You can use the reading passage and a dictionary for help.

sharecroppers

segregate

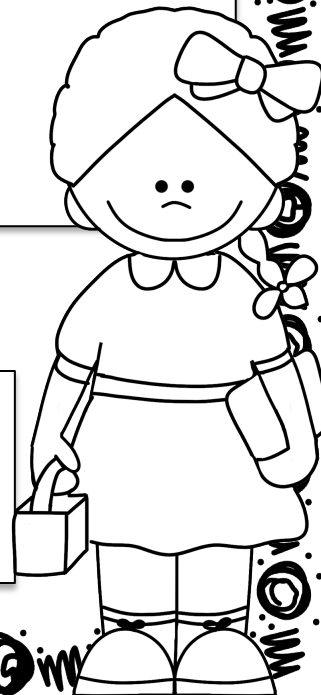
encouragement

make ends meet

integrate

bravery

determination

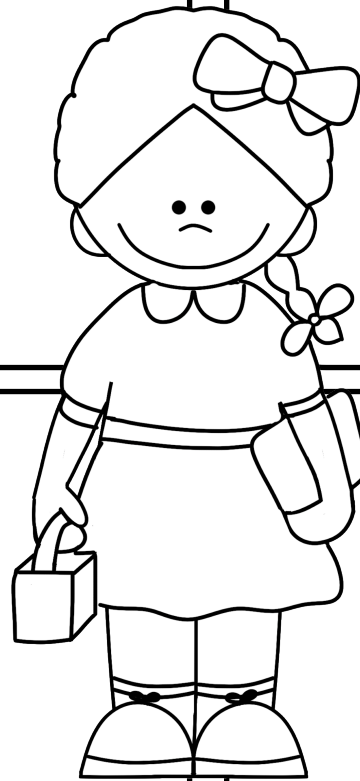


Name: _____

Ruby Bridges: Character Profile

Physical Description:

Character Traits:



Family Information:

What other people
said about Ruby:

Name: _____

~Compare and Contrast~

Directions: Think about what you've learned about Ruby Bridges. Compare and contrast facts from her life with details from your own.

Ruby Bridges

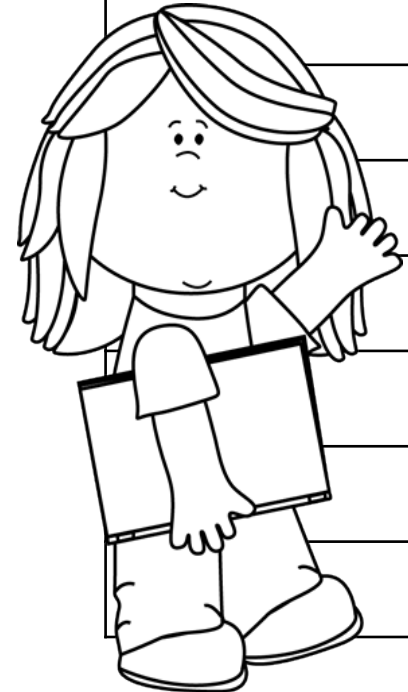
Me

~A Letter to Ruby~

Name: _____

Directions: Write a letter to Ruby Bridges, encouraging her when she might have felt scared of the protestors.

Dear Ruby,

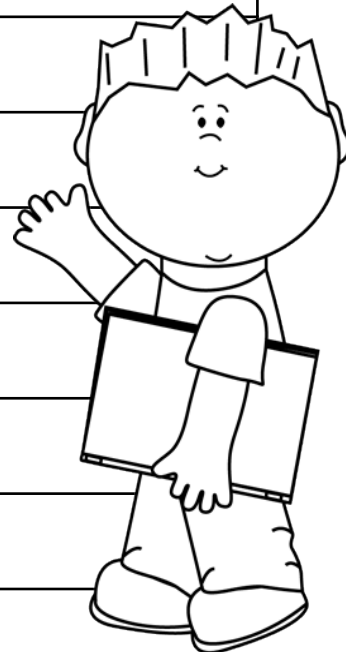


~A Letter to Ruby~

Name: _____

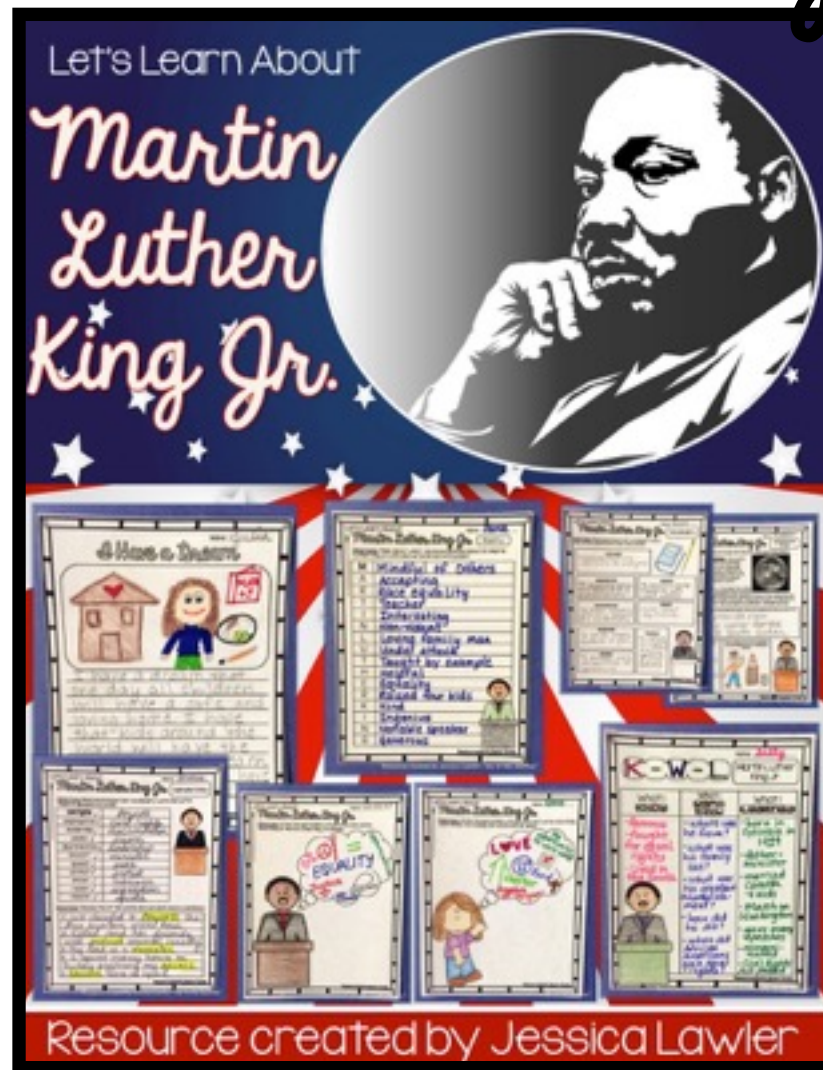
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Dear Ruby,



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