

LEVELED BOOK • I

Ruby Bridges



Written by Kira Freed • Illustrated by Gabhor Utomo

www.readinga-z.com

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Where Ruby Bridges Grew Up



Ruby grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Ruby Bridges photographed at age six in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Who Was Ruby Bridges?

Ruby Bridges was a little girl who made a big **difference**.

Ruby was born in 1954.

She and her family lived in the **South**.



Black people could not use the same drinking fountains as white people in the South.

What Was the South Like?

When Ruby was young, some **laws** in the South were not **fair** to black people.

These laws kept black people and white people **separate**.



Black children and white children went to different schools in the South.

A United States law said that all children had to go to the same schools.

State laws in the South still kept black and white children separate.

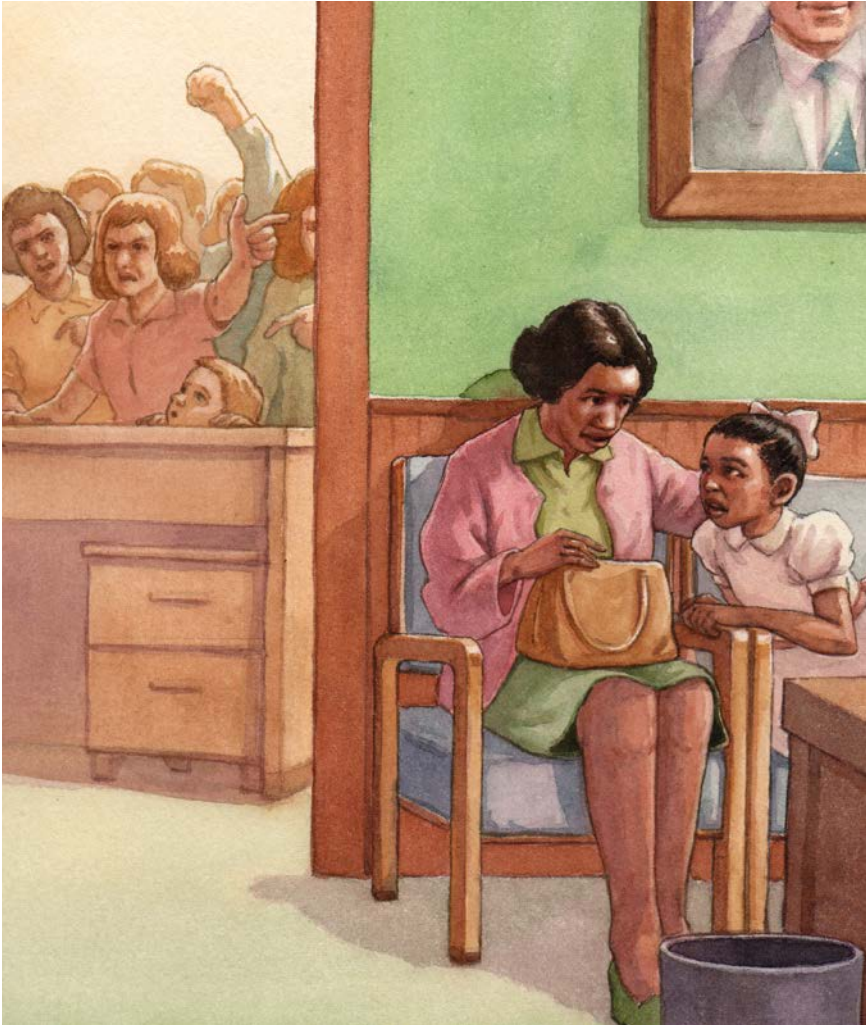
Black children and white children had to go to different schools.

Many people worked to make Southern schools follow the United States law.



How Was Ruby Brave?

Ruby was chosen to go to a white school for first grade in 1960. She was the only black student in that school.



Many white parents did not want their children to go to school with a black child.

They kept their children at home.



People stood outside of the school and yelled at Ruby.

Some angry white people stood
outside Ruby's new school.
They yelled at Ruby every day
when she went to school.



Ruby was led into school by officers.

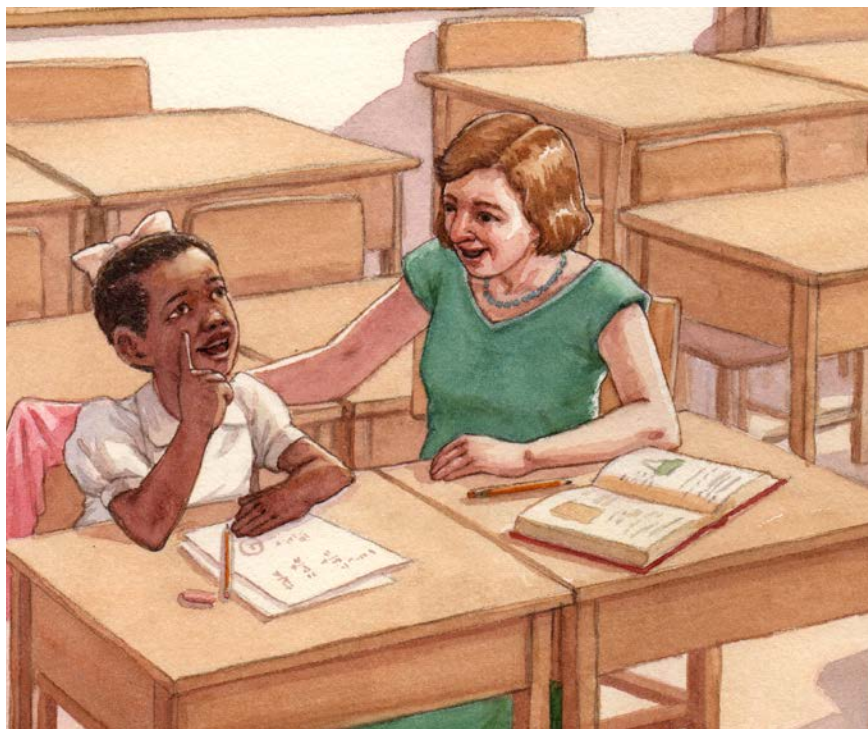
Ruby kept going to school.

Officers kept her safe.



Do You Know?

Other black students in the South went to all-white schools like Ruby. In 1957, nine black teenagers went to a white high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. The president of the United States sent soldiers to protect the students so they could go to school.



Many people helped Ruby while she went to school.

Ruby had a nice teacher named Mrs. Henry.

Ruby was the only child in Mrs. Henry's classroom.

All the other kids had been pulled out of the class by their parents.



A man named Mr. Coles helped
Ruby, too.

Mr. Coles helped Ruby with the way
she felt about going to school.

Ruby drew pictures about
her feelings.

Many neighbors helped Ruby and
her family, too.



Do You Know?

This photo shows Ruby Bridges with President Barack Obama in 2011. They are standing in front of a painting called "The Problem We All Live With." It shows Ruby being taken to school by officers.

How Did Ruby Make a Difference?

Ruby was a **brave** girl who didn't let anything stop her from going to school.

She showed people that children can help change a country.



The next year, other black students
went to school with Ruby.
Today, many different children
go to school together.



Ruby read a book about her life to students in New York City in 2000.

Ruby still works to bring
children together.
She still works to make the world
fair for everyone.

Glossary

brave (<i>adj.</i>)	having courage when facing something scary, hard, or painful (p. 13)
difference (<i>n.</i>)	an important change (p. 4)
fair (<i>adj.</i>)	just, right, or proper (p. 5)
laws (<i>n.</i>)	rules made by a government (p. 5)
separate (<i>adj.</i>)	set or kept apart (p. 5)
South (<i>n.</i>)	the southeastern part of the United States (p. 4)

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Title Page: Officers protect Ruby Bridges at William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana

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