



Author and Illustrator: Duncan Tonatiuh

New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014

40 Pages

AR Level: 5.1

Lexile: 870

**Curriculum Connections:** *Civil Rights, Segregation, Discrimination, Integration, Equality in Education, Brown vs. Board of Education, Mexican Americans, American History, Heritage*

Excellent for close reading, review of book features, and building band 3-5 complex vocabulary, as well as persuasive writing activities.

Available as a DVD for read-along activities.

Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a "Whites only" school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a successful lawsuit in federal district court, leading the way to desegregation of schools in California.

**Text Features:** Extensive Author's Note, Photographs, Glossary, Bibliography, About the Text, and Index.

CCSS for Primary Grades

- *RI.2.2 Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.*
- *RI.2.3 Describe the connection between a series of historical events . . . in a text.*
- *RI.2.5 Know and use various text features . . . to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.*
- *RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.*
- *RL.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.*
- *RL.2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.*
- *RL.2.3 Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.*

CCSS for Intermediate Grades

- *RI.3.9 Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.*
- *RI.4.3 Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical . . . , including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.*
- *RI.5.2 Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.*
- *RI.5.3 Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, . . . text based on specific information in the text.*
- *RI. 5.8 Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which points.*

TOWNER AWARD NOMINEE BOOKS FOR 2016

| Lesson Ideas   | Text Set Options   |
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| <b>Primary:</b>  |  |
| <p>Make Who, What, Where, Why cards. Have groups of students work together to answer each of these questions.</p> <p>Compare and contrast the lives of Sylvia Mendez and Ruby Bridges.</p> <p>Create student groups and assign each a person who made a difference. Provide students with picture books about those people, and guide each group in creating a poster that tells their story. Display the posters and let students present their “heroes” to the class.</p> <p>Make a Venn Diagram comparing the lives and schools of whites with that of minorities during the story’s era.</p> <p>Create a storyboard or time-line of major events in order.</p> | <p><b><i>A Day’s Work</i></b> by Eve Bunting<br/>Clarion 1994 AR 2.7 Lexile 350</p> <p><b><i>Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story</i></b> by Ruby Bridges<br/>Scholastic 2003 AR 2.5 Lexile 410</p> <p><b><i>The Other Side</i></b> by Jaqueline Woodson<br/>G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers 2001 AR 2.7 Lexile 300</p> <p><b><i>Ron’s Big Mission</i></b> by Rose Blue<br/>Dutton Children’s Books 2009 AR 2.9 Lexile 440</p> <p><b><i>Rosa Parks: A Life of Courage</i></b> by Tonya Leslie<br/>Bellwether Media 2008 AR 3.2 Lexile None</p> <p>Interview with Sylvia Mendez: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIMWdfSxoh8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIMWdfSxoh8</a></p> <p>EdWeek Online News Magazine (gives background on the story):<br/><a href="http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2014/05/sylvia_mendez_and_californias_.html">http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2014/05/sylvia_mendez_and_californias_.html</a></p> |
| <b>Intermediate:</b>   |  |
| <p>Research <i>Brown vs Board of Education</i>. Compare dates. What did the ruling mean? How does it impact schools today?</p> <p>Make a Venn Diagram comparing the civil rights movement of the black population with that of Hispanic population.</p> <p>Play a “Do I Have the Right” game: Make a list of things student may not know are rights/not rights (i.e.right to play my music as loud as I want, etc). Guide students in researching if they are rights or not.</p> <p>Do a close reading of the Author’s Note, dividing into groups and investigating any unknown vocabulary.</p>  | <p><b><i>Sylvia and Aki</i></b> by Winifred Conkling<br/>Tricycle Press 2011 AR 4.7 Lexile 460</p> <p><b>Civil Rights Timeline:</b> <a href="http://www.infoplease.com/spot/civilrightstimeline1.html">http://www.infoplease.com/spot/civilrightstimeline1.html</a></p> <p><b><i>Ruth and the Green Book</i></b> by Calvin Alexander Ramsey<br/>Lerner Publishing 2010 AR 4.6 Lexile 810</p> <p><b><i>My Country ‘Tis of Thee</i></b> by Claire Rudolf Murphy<br/>Henry Holt and Company 2014 AR 5.5 Lexile 1000</p> <p><b><i>Through My Eyes</i></b> by Ruby Bridges<br/>Scholastic 1999 AR 5.9 Lexile 860</p> <p><b>Interview with Sylvia Mendez:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZwH3civnE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZwH3civnE</a></p> <p><b><i>Rosa</i></b> by Nikki Giovanni<br/>Henry Holt and Company 2005 AR 4.9 Lexile 900</p>  |