

Ruby Bridges Answers

1. What did Ruby Bridges do that made her famous when she was 6 years old?
She was the first black girl to go to a white school in South America.
2. What did Ruby have to do to be able to go to the white school?
Ruby had to pass (not just take) a test.
3. What are American police officers called?
American police officers are called 'US Marshals'.
4. In the 'First Day of School' paragraph, why were people shouting and throwing things?
People were shouting and throwing things because they did not think it was right for a black girl to go to a white school.
5. What was the name of the painting that Norman Rockwell painted?
Norman Rockwell's painting was called "The Problem We All Live With".
6. People say that Ruby was very brave - do you agree and why?
(Open-ended and good for discussion) Ruby was brave to be the first black girl to go to a white school. She carried on, even though she was being shouted at or having things thrown at her. She must have also been brave to be on her own for the first year with no friends with which to play at school.
7. Do you think Mrs Henry was a kind person? Explain why.
(Open-ended) Answers may include: Mrs Henry was kind because she thought about Ruby's feelings and cared for her even though no one else would talk to her, teach her or play with her.
8. Find as many verbs as you can in the last paragraph.
Verbs in the last paragraph: (was) placed, (was) awarded, looked, said.
9. Which two American presidents has she met?
Ruby has met President Bill Clinton and President Barack Obama.
10. Look at the final quote from President Barack Obama. How have people like Ruby helped him?
He is the first black president of America and this would not have happened if lots of people like Ruby had not done something brave like this to change how black people are seen.

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1. What does the word 'segregation' mean?
Segregation means setting someone or something apart from others, such as when black and white children had to go to separate schools.
2. Look at the end of paragraph two, why do you think that '...there was a lot of trouble'?
There was a lot of trouble because people wanted to stop black children going to the white schools and they were angry about it so they might have caused trouble.
3. What type of punctuation mark joins the adjective 'African-American'?
The adjective 'African-American' is joined with a hyphen.
4. What did Ruby have to do to be able to go to the white school?
Ruby had to pass (not just take) a test.
5. Why did Ruby need to be taken to school by US Marshals?
Ruby needed to be taken to school by US Marshals to keep her safe from the people who were angry about her going to a white school. People were shouting unkind things and also throwing things at her.
6. People say that Ruby was very brave - do you agree and why?
(Open-ended and good for discussion) Ruby was brave to be the first black girl to go to a white school. She carried on, even though she was being shouted at or having things thrown at her. She must have also been brave to be on her own for the first year with no friends to play with at school.
7. In your own words, explain what sort of person Mrs Henry must have been.
(Open-ended) Answers may include: Brave because people were not nice to her for teaching a black girl; kind because she thought about Ruby's feelings and cared for her.
8. Find a fronted adverbial in the fifth paragraph.
The fronted adverbial in the fifth paragraph is 'thankfully'.
9. Ruby is now a civil rights activist. What does that mean?
A civil rights activist is someone who tries to make sure that people are treated equally and fairly no matter the colour of their skin.
10. Look at the final quote from Barack Obama. How have people like Ruby helped him?
He is the first black president of America and this would not have happened if lots of people like Ruby had not done something brave like this to change how black people are seen.

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1. What does the word 'segregation' mean?
To keep people or thing separate (usually because of race or gender).
2. Look at paragraph two. What does the author mean by the phrase '...there was a lot of resistance'?
'There was a lot of resistance' means that people wanted to stop it (desegregation) happening. Resistance means pushing against something.
3. What type of adjective is African-American in paragraph two?
African-American is a compound adjective because it is made of two adjectives joined together with a hyphen.
4. What did Ruby have to do to be able to go to the white school?
Ruby had to pass (not just take) a test.
5. 'The First Day of School' paragraph starts with 'People expected there to be trouble...' Why did people expect trouble?
People expected trouble because they were not used to black and white children at the same school and lots of people did not want children to be mixed, so people were expected to get angry about it.
6. At the end of the fourth paragraph, the author uses the word 'iconic' - what does this mean?
The word iconic means something that has become famous. It can relate to a person or image that has become very famous and means something.
7. We know that Ruby was very brave to go through this experience. Why do you think Mrs Henry was also brave?
Mrs Henry was white and would have been disliked by many people for being on Ruby's side and being nice to her. She was brave to ignore these people and the unkind things they might say and continue to do what she believed in.
8. Find a fronted adverbial in the fifth paragraph.
The fronted adverbial in the fifth paragraph is 'thankfully'.
9. Explain what you think the 'problem' is in the title of the painting talked about in the text.
The problem is racism or the fact that a black girl had so much trouble going to school with white children.
10. Look at the final quote from Barack Obama. What does he mean by this?
He is the first black president of America and this would not have happened if lots of people like Ruby had not done something brave like this to change how black people are seen.