

Ruby Bridges

The Child Who Desegregated An American School

In November of 1960, a 6-year-old African-American girl named Ruby Bridges marched up to William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana with 75 Federal agents protecting her every step of the way. This 6-year-old girl changed history for America and for African Americans everywhere by her courageous demeanor not just on this momentous day but for the entire school year as she faced the racial hatred of an angry mob. The town was full of such hatred and bigotry that all of the parents of white children took their children out of the school.

Ruby had the opportunity to be taught by a new teacher from Boston. She was the only pupil in her class and that is how the rest of the year remained for her. Thirty-five years after this event, Ruby had the opportunity of seeing her teacher again. Those fond emotions returned and they spoke of how neither one of them missed a day of school that most momentous year.

Today Ruby Bridges Hall has four children of her own. After watching her nieces try to raise themselves on their own, she decided to create a foundation for education. The Ruby Bridges Foundation was established to bring parents more fully into the school system. She believes that parents need to take “a more active role in their kids’ education” (PBS.org, pg 7). She believes that children deserve the best education possible from our schools but parents need to be involved in what their children are learning.