

Mrs. Corrado

“Don’t follow the path. Go where there is no path and start a trail.” -- Ruby Bridges

Second grade students in Mrs. Corrado’s reading class learned that even a six-year-old can be a hero. During the 1950’s and 1960’s, black Americans in the south were not treated fairly. They were not allowed to sit in the same section as white people on buses or at lunch counters, were not allowed to drink from the same water fountains as white people, to attend the same schools, or even to vote the way white Americans could. By viewing several videos about the civil rights movement, students learned about the lives and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Ruby Bridges and saw firsthand the challenges that black Americans faced on a daily basis. After reading biographies of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Ruby Bridges, students learned new vocabulary words such as segregation, integration, and discrimination. They discussed what it might feel like to be six-year-old Ruby Bridges, walking through a gauntlet of screaming protestors each morning and sitting alone in a huge classroom with only her teacher for company. Students then listened to several versions of the gospel song “We Shall Overcome,” as they drew pictures of Ruby’s experiences as a new student at William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. They talked about how their illustrations showed what Ruby had to overcome, and how doing so made her a hero. Finally, each student selected a form of writing – description, diary entry, and free-verse poem – to express what it was like to walk in Ruby’s shoes during those difficult days. All of these contributed to the students gaining a deeper understanding of how facing these overwhelming obstacles with faith and

confidence helped make Ruby Bridges a hero for all Americans, young or old, black or white – for courage has no age or color.

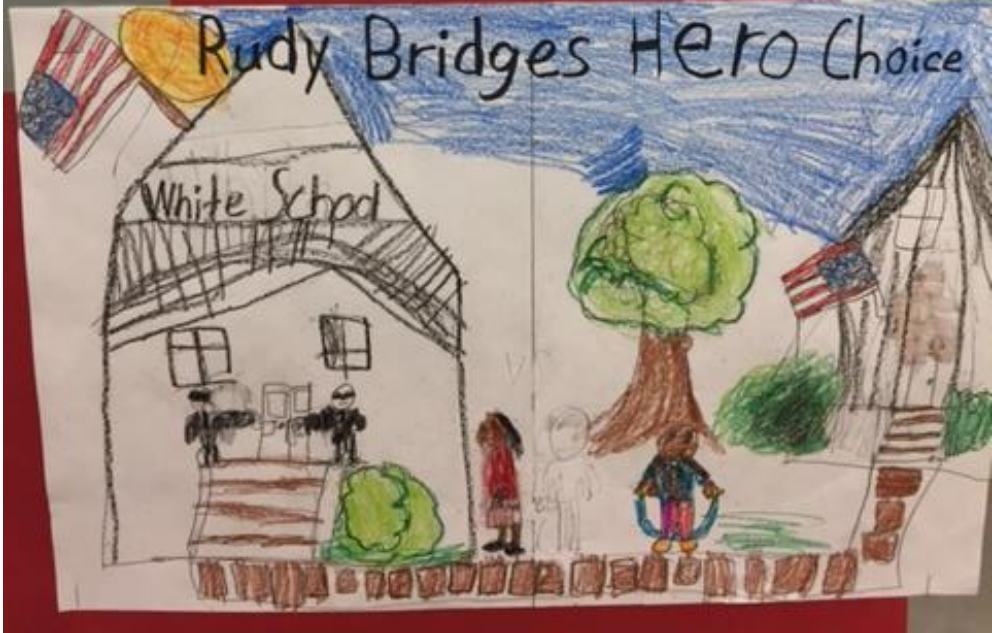
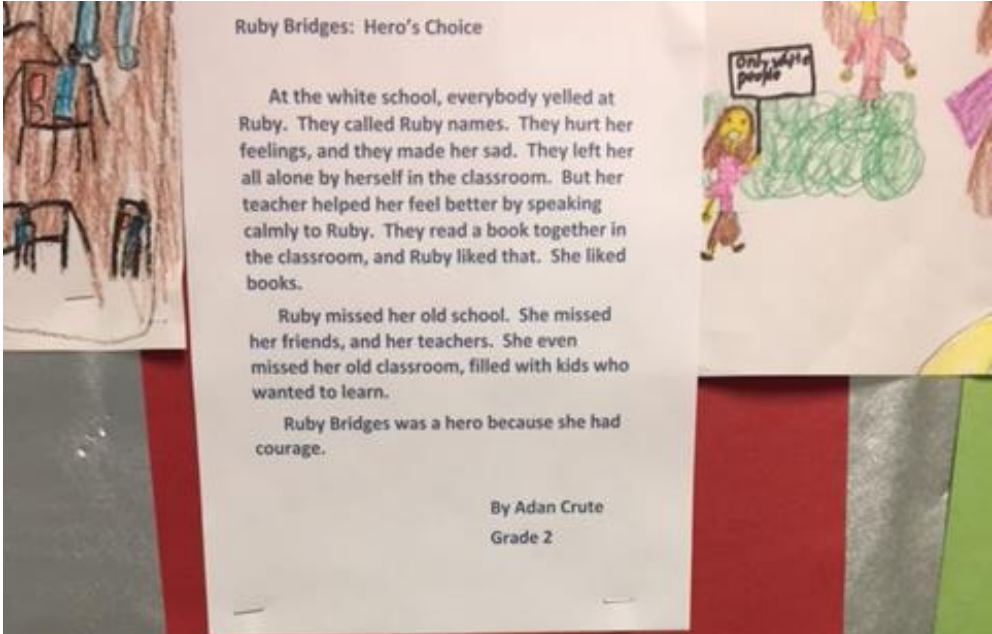
Ruby Bridges: Hero's Choice

At the white school, everybody yelled at Ruby. They called Ruby names. They hurt her feelings, and they made her sad. They left her all alone by herself in the classroom. But her teacher helped her feel better by speaking calmly to Ruby. They read a book together in the classroom, and Ruby liked that. She liked books.

Ruby missed her old school. She missed her friends, and her teachers. She even missed her old classroom, filled with kids who wanted to learn.

Ruby Bridges was a hero because she had courage.

By Adan Crute
Grade 2



Ruby Bridges' Hero's choice

FRANTZ ETIEM



Nathan Zhang

Ruby Bridges: Hero's Choice

Ruby was very scared on her first day of school. People were shouting at Ruby as she walked by. When Ruby got to her classroom, she was sad to see that all the kids had left. She felt so alone.

One day, Ruby stopped in the middle of the crowd. Her teacher saw Ruby's lips moving. The people who guarded her were scared. They did not know what she was doing. But Ruby wasn't scared. She was able to ignore the people shouting. She was praying.

Nathan Zhang
Grade 2



Ruby Bridges' 'Hero's Choice'



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Ruby Bridges: Hero's Choice

Dear Diary,

Today was my first day at my new school, Franz Elementary School. I felt scared when I came to the new school. I was scared because I did not know anyone in the school, and I had no friends in the new school. And I felt sad because I was moving from my neighborhood where everyone knew me and I knew my friends. Here, I won't know anyone in the school. I hope I will meet some new friends.

Your friend,
Ruby Bridges
(Nicole Raciborski,
Grade 2)

s Hero Choice

