

## Ruby Bridges



Ruby Bridges, at only the age of six, started a movement that many deemed as being implausible at the time. She was the first young African American to integrate into William Frantz Elementary School, an elementary school located in the South where segregation and racism were most prominent.

Ruby, along with five other black students had been admitted to the school after passing an exam, but the other black students' parents opted out in fear of their safety. Upon entering the school premises, Ruby and her mother both had to be escorted by four federal marshals as crowds of angry people yelled and chanted racist slurs. Many students were withdrawn from the school due to the fact there was a 'negro' kid in their school. Ruby was in a class by herself and only had one teacher who was willing to take her in, this teacher was Barbara Henry who would also spend lunch and recess with Ruby as many of the students stood clear of her way. Despite all the hate for attending the prominently white school, Ruby did not miss any day of school and continued to excel.

Ruby helped pave the way for desegregation in schools and civil rights for Black people in the South. Today, Ruby is still an active voice in shining light on racism and how even today, is still remains a prominent issue in our society. Ruby has written countless books describing her experience growing up in the South and her struggles in being exposed to a hostile environment at a young age due to the color of her skin.