

## **Desegregation in America – How Everyday People Made a Difference**

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My unit of study uses children's literature to illustrate the lives of everyday people and the roles they played to enact change during the civil rights era. The stories of Ruby Bridges, the Greensboro Four and Jackie Robinson illustrate the struggles that people endured to make that change. My unit concentrates on six children's books: The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles, Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges, Sit- in – How four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down by Andrea Davis Pinkney, Freedom on the Menu – The Greensboro Sit-Ins by Carole Boston Weatherford, Teammates – How Two Men Changed the Face of Baseball by Peter Golenbock and Wings by Christopher Myers. Students will use three reading comprehension strategies: sequencing, characterization, and cause/effect to help them understand the characters, events, motivation, and effects. By the end of the unit, students will understand: the meaning of *tolerance, intolerance, segregation, integration*, the effects of segregation practices on people, the roles that everyday people played to change those practices, the similarities and differences between their lives and the lives of the people who lived under the rules of segregation, their responsibility to show tolerance toward others.