



***Ruby Bridges Goes to School* by Ruby Bridges**

Scholastic Inc., an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2009

ISBN: 9780545108553 (Trade Paperback)

\*Age Range: 4 to 8 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: N/A (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

## BOOK SYNOPSIS

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In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges walked through an angry crowd and into a school where she changed history. This is the true story of an extraordinary little girl who helped shape our country when she became the first African-American to attend an all-white school in New Orleans. With simple text and historical photographs, this easy reader explores an amazing moment in history and the courage of a young girl who stayed strong in the face of racism.

## REVIEWS AND PRAISE

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### Praise for I AM RUBY BRIDGES:

★ “Any picture book collection tackling the Civil Rights Movement has to start here. Highly recommended for all shelves, this exemplary title for history and biography collections shows how the events of the world impact our youngest citizens.” – *School Library Journal*, **starred review**

“A unique angle on a watershed moment in the civil rights era.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

“In this worthwhile and unique introduction to the civil rights era, Bridges shares memories of optimism and hope, told from a childhood point of view that allows for an intimate connection with primary readers. Smith’s illustrations, often sweeping double-page spreads, are equal parts whimsical, metaphorical (at one point Ruby’s fingers are positioned as an actual bridge), and informative.” – *Horn Book*

“Viewing class pictures at school finally offers clarity for [Ruby], who sees her experience as a good thing for all: ‘Who cares what colors we are?... School is just school and kids are just kids.’ Smith’s vigorous digital brushwork portrays Ruby, in sharp relief against blurry backgrounds, as she celebrates being ‘the first.’” – *Publishers Weekly*

## MEDIA AND RESOURCES

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- [Norman Rockwell Museum](#), read aloud curriculum guide
- [National Park Service](#), reading guide
- [Publishers Weekly](#), “Ruby Bridges and Scholastic to Launch Publishing Program”

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## RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

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[Williamson County Schools](#): The committee does not share the concerns of the complainants. The committee reached the conclusion that the lessons do not create opportunities for divisiveness at any point. The lessons center deeply on the experiences in the text that are historically accurate representations of the events in the nation's history.

[PEN America](#): Author and civil rights leader Ruby Bridges is testifying at today's hearing. Three books about her have been targeted in the spate of book banning in PA, TN, and TX. Two were banned. These 3 books tell us a lot about the current spate of book banning.

## AUTHOR STATEMENT

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[Chalkbeat Tennessee](#): I try to write my books in an uplifting way. My books have been truthful, and I do uplift everyone who was involved [in her integration effort]: my teacher, who was white, my psychologist, who was white, the federal marshals who supported me, the people around the country who supported me.

[But] they said the reason my books were being banned was because it made young white kids feel bad about themselves. So, for them to say that, that's ridiculous. So, when they started targeting me, I couldn't ignore it. Then I got a call from Congress asking me if I would speak about it.

Once my books are pulled down, you probably should expect that a lot more would follow. But if you're banning my books because they're too truthful, then why don't we start having a conversation about the books that we force our young people to study, like the textbooks we know omit so much of the truth?

So, if we're going to ban my books, let's take them all off the shelves and start anew.

## \*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

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A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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