

I walk through the school door, and go to my seat. After I put all of my things away, I read the chalkboard. Today it says "Get out your Language Arts textbook and turn to page 34," and I do. As I look at it, I realize how old and battered it is. I see my peers have similar looking books. I mutter angrily "I bet the white kids get brand new books," but then the lesson starts. I quiet down and listen, and realize it's probably going to stay like this. I think of what my grandmama always says "At least we aren't slaves," and I know that's true. African Americans knew segregation was wrong, so they worked together to put a stop to it. Linda Brown and others fought against segregation because they knew they were being wronged in many ways, leading to Brown v. Board. In the end, Linda's work added up to create non segregated schools, and change lives.

Linda Brown and other African American kids in the 1950's had to face segregation in their childhood schools. Linda went to Monroe Elementary, a segregated school for blacks. Black schools didn't have as much funding, the same amenities (gym, cafeteria, etc), or as many supplies as white schools. The supplies they were given were used, old, and cheap. Their teachers didn't go through as much training, so the kids didn't get the same quality education. All young African Americans had to face these obstacles until a group of brave individuals stood up to the cruelty of segregation.

Brown v. Board was a case between Oliver Brown, (Linda Brown's dad), and the Board of Education of Topeka. The local NAACP chose 13 parents of 20 African American students who were blocked from attending all-white elementary schools to represent. In the city, all schools were segregated, blacks went to one school and whites to another. All-white Sumner Elementary denied Linda Brown's entry, forcing her to transit a great length to attend all-black Monroe Elementary. This caused an uproar among African Americans.

The Supreme Court decisions of the 20th century unanimously held that the racial segregation of children in public schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Linda Brown and others used the fourteenth amendment to prove that segregation was wrong. The 14th amendment detailed equal protection of the laws, an important clause within the amendment. It was put there to ensure everybody's equal treatment by the government. It was used a lot in the civil rights movement, especially in Brown v. Board. The people fighting the board of education went to the Supreme Court to desegregate schools. The Supreme Court decided to desegregate schools because everybody should be treated the same, and problems would surely break out if they did not.

How would you feel if all of this commotion found its way into your life? Well, Linda Brown stated, "I did not comprehend color of skin. I only knew that I wanted to go to Sumner." This shows that she was determined and wanted to be able to experience what white people experienced. She also did not judge people by the color of their skin. I realize that I would have been hurt. I probably would have wanted to stay hidden in my house and never come out. This pains me to see that our country was once in this desperate time, where segregation was making minds feel grieved for being a different color of skin.

Linda Brown and others fought against segregation, for their rights, and justice. She was a model to me and the rest of us. She found a way to convince the Board of Education and the Supreme Court that segregated schools were wrong. Now look at the of results of Linda's work. I have an African American person in my class, and lots in my grade! We share the same restrooms, and drink from the same fountain. We have learned how to love and respect one another. Barack Obama? He was the United State's first African American president. Morgan Freeman? A famous actor. So, next time you're faced with mistreatment, defend yourself and others, it might change your life forever.