

Brave Girls Virtual Story Time:

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation

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learning guide

Part of the National Women's History Museum's NWHM@Home virtual programming. Visit [womenshistory.org/nwhmathome](https://www.womenshistory.org/nwhmathome) for more information.

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Learn Together



- **SEGREGATE** : to separate people based on race, ethnicity, class, or other distinctions
- **DEGRADING** : to cause a loss of self-respect
- **INFERIOR** : of lesser quality
- **SUPERIOR** : of greater quality
- **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY** : treating others without discrimination
- **INTEGRATE** : to open to members of all races, ethnicities, and other community groups
- **INJUSTICE** : something that is unfair
- **CITIZEN** : a person who owes allegiance to the government and is entitled to full civic rights and privileges
- **ETHNICITY** : a community of people who have a common national or cultural tradition
- **HYGIENE** : conditions relating to health and personal well-being
- **LAWSUIT** : a dispute brought to a court for a decision to be made
- **PETITION** : a formal written document requesting a right or action be taken by a figure of authority
- **"SEPARATE BUT EQUAL"** : a policy based on the US Supreme Court ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) that holds that certain communities of people can be denied access to public spaces, such as schools, housing, eating establishments, restrooms, pools, and entertainment facilities, as long as they are provided facilities of an equal nature

Discuss Together



- “In order to have the people of the United States understand one another it is necessary for them to live together, and the public school is the one mechanism where all the children of all the people go,” David Marcus says in *Separate is Never Equal*. Do you agree with Mr. Marcus’s sentiment? What have you other about other at your school?
- Have you ever experienced unkind words or actions because of the color of your skin or your family’s background? Have you seen others discriminated against? How did these experiences make you feel? What might you do differently now that you’ve heard Sylvia’s story?
- “When you fight for injustice, other will follow,” Felicitas Mendez told young Sylvia. A leader is someone who influences outcomes and inspires others. How can you inspire others in your day-to-day interactions?

My Favorite Part of Sylvia's Story is . . .

- *Draw a picture;*
- *Journal your thoughts;*
- *Describe your favorite aspect of Sylvia's story to someone else;*
- *Describe Sylvia in 3 words (here are ours!: brave, resilient, honorable).*



Do You Love Sylvia's Story? Purchase a Copy of *Separate is Never Equal* Online from One of the NWHM's Preferred Book Sellers!

○South: @thebookshopnashville

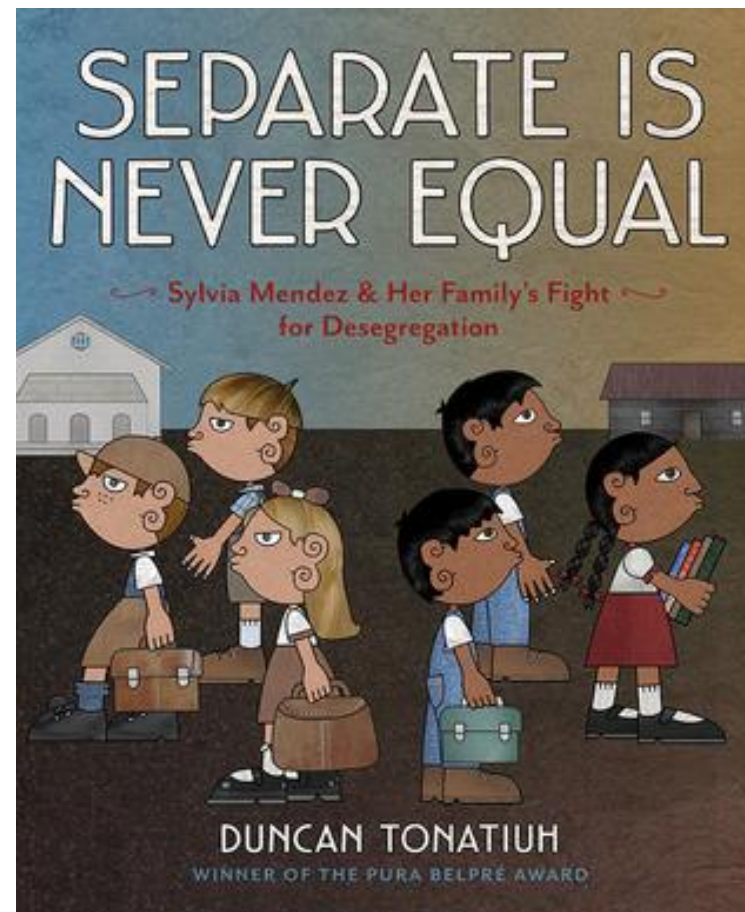
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Until Next
Time, Brave
Girls . . .
Keep On
Reading!



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