

The White Girl Story: A Case Study of School Desegregation in the American South

In 1957, nine African American students enrolled at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, becoming known as the "Little Rock Nine." Their enrollment was met with protests and violence, and they were only able to attend school with the protection of the National Guard. The story of the Little Rock Nine is well-known, but there is another story from that era that is less well-known: the story of a white girl who was one of the first to attend a desegregated school in the American South.

The girl, who we will call Mary, was born in a small town in Mississippi in 1943. Her father was a doctor, and her mother was a teacher. Mary was a bright and curious child, and she loved to learn. She attended the local elementary school, where she was one of the only white students in her class. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that school segregation was unconstitutional. The ruling was met with resistance in many parts of the South, and Mississippi was no exception.



White Girl: A Story of School Desegregation

by Clara Silverstein

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1993 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 168 pages

Lending : Enabled



Mary's father was a strong supporter of school desegregation, and he believed that it was important for his daughter to have the opportunity to attend an integrated school. In 1955, Mary enrolled at the local high school, which had just been desegregated. She was one of only two white students in her class, and she faced a great deal of hostility from her classmates and teachers. She was called names, threatened, and even spat on. But Mary refused to be intimidated. She continued to go to school every day, and she refused to let the hatred of others get in the way of her education.

Mary's courage and determination had a profound impact on her community. She showed that it was possible for white people to stand up for what was right, even in the face of adversity. Her story helped to change hearts and minds, and it played a role in the desegregation of schools throughout the South.

Mary's story is a reminder that the fight for equality is never easy. But it is a fight that is worth fighting. And it is a fight that we must continue to fight until all children have the opportunity to attend a quality education, regardless of their race.

The Challenges Mary Faced

Mary faced a number of challenges when she attended the desegregated high school. She was called names, threatened, and even spat on. Her classmates and teachers made it clear that she was not welcome, and they did everything they could to make her life miserable.

But Mary refused to be intimidated. She continued to go to school every day, and she refused to let the hatred of others get in the way of her education. She was determined to show that white people could stand up for what was right, even in the face of adversity.

The Impact of Mary's Decision on Her Family and Community

Mary's decision to attend the desegregated high school had a profound impact on her family and community. Her parents were proud of her for standing up for what she believed in, but they were also worried about her safety. They knew that she was facing a lot of hostility, and they wanted to make sure that she was protected.

Mary's decision also had an impact on her community. She showed that it was possible for white people to stand up for what was right, even in the face of adversity. Her story helped to change hearts and minds, and it played a role in the desegregation of schools throughout the South.

The Larger Implications for Race Relations in the United States

Mary's story is a reminder that the fight for equality is never easy. But it is a fight that is worth fighting. And it is a fight that we must continue to fight until all children have the opportunity to attend a quality education, regardless of their race.

Mary's story is also a reminder that change is possible. Even in the darkest of times, there are always people who are willing to stand up for what is right. And it is those people who make the world a better place.

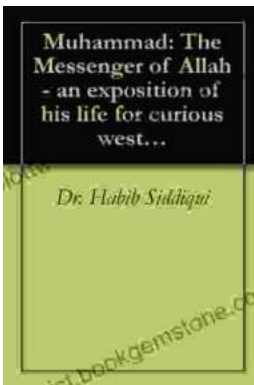
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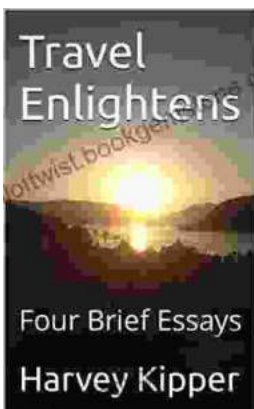
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