

RUBY BRIDGES

Lesson Plan

Illustrating Ideas

Lesson Plan for *Ruby Bridges*
Grade 2

Objective

To help students explore how a painting can communicate ideas visually through the details the painter selects.

Things Needed

- *Ruby Bridges* book
- 11 x 17 paper
- Crayons, markers, and colored pencils

Before the Activity

Have students read the *Ruby Bridges* book.

Activity

Open the book to pages 26 and 27. Norman Rockwell painted this image of Ruby Bridges. As readers look at the image, have them answer the following questions:

- The picture shows Ruby walking. Based on what you know about Ruby's life from the book, where do you think she's going? (Answer: She's probably walking to or from school.)
- Who are the four men in the painting? (Answer: They are US marshals.)
- Why are they walking with Ruby? (Answer: She needed protection from angry crowds that didn't want her to attend the school.)
- Why do you think there's a tomato on page 27? (Answer: Someone in the crowd probably threw it at Ruby.)
- This painting is called *The Problem We All Live With*. What problem do you think this title refers to? (Answer: The problem is racism or discrimination or inequality.)

When Norman Rockwell made this painting, he chose not to show the angry crowd. Instead, he focused on Ruby. This choice makes viewers feel like they are right there with her, experiencing the same problems she experienced.



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Ask students to think of a problem facing people somewhere in the world today. Each student should make a poster that illustrates this problem. Like Norman Rockwell, they should choose details that will help viewers understand the problem without using words. They should also give their poster a title that helps viewers understand the ideas it communicates.

Evaluation

Have students take turns presenting their posters to the rest of the class. Each student should hold up the poster and say its title. The other students can guess the problem the poster illustrates.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 2 (RI 2.7).

