

# SEPARATE IS NOT EQUAL

## BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Teacher Briefing Sheet: Lesson Plan Six

This briefing sheet provides teachers background information on the eight cartoons and editorials found in Lesson Plan Six.

#### 1. Political Cartoon: Schoolchildren pushing against door

This cartoon was created by Bill Mauldin, and printed in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on December 1, 1960. By 1960, Southern resistance to integration was at its peak. In this cartoon, tiny African American children are depicted pushing against a huge door that represents the uphill battle that they faced. Courtesy of Library of Congress

#### 2. Political Cartoon: Racehorse

This cartoon was created by Jon Kennedy, and printed in the *Little Rock Arkansas Democrat* on May 17, 1954. Many Southerners felt that the pace of integration was proceeding too rapidly. The race horse, led by an academic, represents many Southerners' views that Northern intellectuals were dominating the Supreme Court and disregarding a more practical, gradual approach advocated by many Southerners and symbolized by the farmer and his work horse. Courtesy of *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

#### 3. Political Cartoon: Marshall on train

This cartoon was printed in the *Baltimore Afro-American* on July 2, 1955. The *Brown* decision declared the system of legal segregation unconstitutional. But the Court ordered only that the states end segregation with "all deliberate speed." This vagueness about how to enforce the ruling gave segregationists the opportunity to organize resistance. In the 1950s, the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were transported around the country by rail in a project known as the Freedom Train. In this image, Thurgood Marshall appears as an engineer on a train that many readers would have associated with the Freedom Train. The intention of the African American cartoonist was to show the momentum and inevitability of integration. Courtesy of *Baltimore Afro-American Archives*

#### 4. Letter to the Editor: *Washington Afro*, Washington, D.C.: May 29, 1954 p. 21

This letter from the African American *Washington Afro* suggests that the *Brown* decision was the most important civil rights decision to date. More importantly, it suggests that significant work remained to be done and focused on local issues, as had most of the activism against school segregation. Courtesy of Library of Congress

#### 5. Letter to the Editor: *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Miss. May 24, 1954 p. 5

This letter from the Jackson, Miss., *Clarion-Ledger* positioned the Supreme Court as an activist judiciary and tied the decision to threats of communism, miscegenation, and the "Lost Cause" of the antebellum South. Courtesy of Library of Congress

**6. Letter to the Editor: The *Boston Globe*, Boston Mass.: May 27, 1954 p. 20**

This letter from The *Boston Globe* suggests that, while the Supreme Court's decision was a boon to the Civil Rights Movement, it would take more than a change in laws to make any real substantive changes in American culture. It also demonstrated a strong sense of Northern condescension to Southerners. Courtesy of Library of Congress

**7. Letter to the Editor: The *Omaha Star*: Omaha, Neb.: June 14, 1954, p. 1 volume 16 no. 50**

This editorial to *The Omaha Star*, an African American paper, focused on the issue of hiring teachers. It demonstrates that the *Brown* decision did not immediately end the issues of segregation. Courtesy of Library of Congress

**8. *The Problem We All Live With* – Norman Rockwell Print**

Norman Rockwell painted *The Problem We All Live With* in 1964. It depicts federal marshals guarding six-year-old Ruby Bridges on her way to elementary school in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1960. When Ruby Bridges attended school under a court order, she was subjected to verbal harassment and abuse and her smiling photograph was carried on newspapers throughout the country, making her a poster child for the integration movement. This painting by Norman Rockwell became a cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*.