

Separate Is Never Equal

mentor text unit

Mentor Sentence Lesson
Interactive Activity
Reading Activities
Writing Prompt
Vocabulary



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Digital Learning Links

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Separate is Never Equal
By Duncan Tonatiuh



Learning Objectives: Focus Standard: L.2 (proper nouns)

Reading Lesson Ideas:

R.1: Students read and identify that the "separate school" is not equal to the Westminster school.

R.2: Have students summarize and support a theme of the book.

R.3: Students explain how Sylvia's character changes in the book.

R.4: Students use context clues to determine the meaning of domain-specific words from the book (for example, segregated).

R.5: Students identify the sequence of the story and place key events on a timeline.

R.6: Students could write or discuss how the story could have been different told from first-person point of view (Sylvia or Mr. Marcus).

R.9: Read The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles and compare Sylvia and Ruby.

Writing Lesson Ideas:

W.1: Students write a letter to the school to feel welcomed.

On March 2, 1945,

Mr. Marcus went to the
courthouse and filed
the lawsuit.

Separate Is Never Equal

Monday - possibilities of things to notice

*proper nouns – March and Mr. Marcus

compound words – courthouse and lawsuit
 introduce with the, set off by a comma
 simple sentence with compound predicate
 prepositional phrase
 past tense

Tuesday - label the sentence

On March 2, 1945 – adverb phrase (or adverbial)

Mr. Marcus, courthouse, lawsuit – nouns

went, filed – verbs

to – preposition

the – article

and – conjunction

On March 2, 1945, Mr. Marcus went to the courthouse and filed
the lawsuit.

complete subject
simple subject

complete predicate
simple predicates

Wednesday - possibility of revised sentence

On March 2, 1945, Mr. Marcus marched to the courthouse and
 confidently filed the lawsuit.
 (change to verb added adverb)

Thursday - possibility of revision

On February 18, 1946, Judge McCormick made his decision and
 ruled in favor of the Mendez family.

Name: Answer Key

Date: _____

Editing Assessment



On March 2, 1945, Mr. Marcus went to the courthouse and filed the lawsuit.

1. Circle 4 mistakes in the sentence. Rewrite the sentence correctly:

On March 2, 1945, Mr. Marcus went to the courthouse and filed the lawsuit.

In the following sentences, circle the words that should be capitalized.

2. It was Sylvia's first day at school in Westminster.

3. As the summer came to an end, Sylvia and her brothers and cousins went to the school on 17th Street.

4. She was not Mexican; she was a Mexican American.

5. Her father was from Mexico, but he had become a U.S. citizen.

6. The next day, Mr. Mendez met with Mr. Harris.

7. That fall, Sylvia and her brothers had to attend Hoover Elementary on Olive Street.

8. Mr. Mendez created a group called the Parents Association of Mexican-American Children.

9. On April 15, 1947, the judges in San Francisco ruled in favor of the Mendez family.

PROPER NOUNS

Proper nouns are the names for common nouns and should always be capitalized. Cut out the activity and glue it into your notebook, cutting across so there are eight flaps. Under each flap, write an example of the type of proper noun.

PROPER NOUNS

a person's name

a person's title

a person's ethnicity
or origin

name of a country

name of a city

name of a school

name of a street

name of an organization

Name: _____ Date: _____

Separate Is Never Equal

List the evidence the author gives to show Hoover Elementary was not equal to the local public school in Westminster.

evi n videnc

PREVIEW



evidence

PREVIEW



evidence evidence

PREVIEW



Name: Possible Answers Date: _____

Separate Is Never Equal

Give evidence to support the theme of the book.

Theme:

Justice

Sylvia and her
brothers were
forced to go to the
Mexican school just
because they had
brown skin, not
because they didn't
speak English.

Children tell Sylvia
to go back to
her own school. All
her names were called
her because of the
color of her skin.

Mr. Mansueto found other families to join
the case to show that thousands of
children were being segregated.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Separate Is Never Equal

Compare Sylvia Mendez to Ruby Bridges.



Sylvia

PREVIEW

PREVIEW



Ruby

PREVIEW

Name: _____ Date: _____

Separate Is Never Equal



How can you help someone new feel welcomed?

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

labored



© jivey

enroll



© jivey

inferior



© jivey

integrate



© jivey

segregation



© jivey

injustice



© jivey

Name: _____

Date: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Use the text and picture clues to help you infer the meaning of these words.

WORD

PART OF SPEECH

BOOK CLUES

YOUR DEFINITION

labored

enroll

inferior

integrate

segregation

injustice

Name: **ANSWER KEY**

Date: _____

UNDERSTANDING WORD PARTS



Words can be classified into three parts. There are root words, which is the base of a word. The prefix is added to the beginning of a root word and suffixes are added to the end of a root word.

root words:**loc :** work**seg :** cut apart, pieces**vis :** see**prefix:****in- :** not, opposite of, without**de- :** remove**co- :** together**suffix:****-ation :** process

Use the definitions to help you determine the meaning of the words:

1. The song was a collaboration of two musicians.

collaboration most likely means: **process of working together**

2. Burke peeled the orange into segments.

segments most likely means: **pieces pulled apart**

3. The Mendez family fought for desegregation of schools.

desegregation most likely means: **remove the process of cutting apart (remove pieces of separation)**

4. Some waves are invisible until they make contact with your ear.

invisible most likely means: **not able to see**

Name: _____

Date: _____

YOU DECIDE!



Do these situations demonstrate the word correctly? Why or why not?

1. I don't like being outdoors.
So when I'm at a picnic, I
--- yes --- no

The farmer laborer
from the university town
during the harvest
--- yes --- no

3. The little boy's spelling
was inferior to his mom's.
--- yes --- no

4. People of all races ate
together in the same
restaurant during
segregation.
--- yes --- no

5. Good lawyers like Mr.
Marcus fight to end
injustice.
--- yes --- no

6. Chira must integrate her
math and science
knowledge to be a chemist.
--- yes --- no

Name: **ANSWER KEY** Date: _____**SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW**1. Which word is the **ANTONYM** of integration?

- a. ☒ integration b. enrollment c. injury

2. Explain how the prefix in injustice helps you understand the word's meaning:

the prefix "in" means not, so injustice means not fair,

or not equal treatment

3. Someone who labored all day is likely:

- a. lazy b. ☒ persistent c. separated

4. Which grade do most parents first enroll their child for school?

- a. 5th grade b. 12th grade c. ☒ kindergarten

5. Which of these sentences would most likely be true?

a. The animal shelter integrates the cats and dogs in one room.

b. ☒ The pet store integrates the fish and the snails in one tank.

6. Tom likes both Zowie's chicken sandwich and which is ferier than the one from Popeyes.

Which one does he like better? **Popeyes**



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