



illustrated by Chris Ware



Ruby Bridges was only six years old when she became the first African American child to attend the all-white elementary school in her neighborhood. On November 4, 1960, Ruby was escorted into the school in New Orleans under the protection of four federal marshals.

Linda Brown was a third-grader when her family participated in the famous lawsuit against the Topeka (Kansas) Board of Education. Because her family's name was the first alphabetically among the African American students whose families filed the suit, "Brown" was used on the legal case when it went to the Supreme Court: *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. The landmark decision ended segregated public schools.



On March 2, 1955, 15-year-old **Claudette Colvin** refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus to a white passenger. For her defiance, Claudette was arrested—nine months before Rosa Parks did the same thing. In 1956, Claudette's testimony helped end Montgomery's segregation laws.



On May 2, 1963, 14-year-old **Carolyn McKinstry** joined thousands of other Birmingham, Alabama, children and teenagers who marched for freedom and equality. She was blasted by a water cannon that tore holes in her clothes and ripped the hair out of one side of her head. That September, she was in the 16th Street Baptist Church when a bomb went off. Four young girls, all friends of Carolyn, were killed.



At 10 years old, **Audrey Faye Hendricks** was one of the youngest children to participate in the Birmingham children's crusade in May 1963. She was arrested and spent six days crowded in a large room, sharing a bathroom with 20 other girls. Audrey later volunteered to be in the first class to integrate Ramsey High School in Birmingham.