# PEOPLE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

SL

CC

VER

# Talk About It

138

Why would someone paint such a large picture?

Find out more about people who made a difference at www.macmillanmh.com



### Vocabulary

unfair	unsuspecting
ancestors	avoided
numerous	injustice
segregation	



#### Words Parts

**Prefixes** are added to the beginning of words and change their meanings.

un- = "not"

unfair = "not fair"



#### by Lily Tuttle

**CIVIL RIGHTS** are equal opportunities to all citizens regardless of race, religion, or gender. At one time, **unfair** laws gave some people more opportunities than others. Several brave people took a stand and made a difference.

## **Thurgood Marshall**

Thurgood Marshall's family had come a long way from the time when their **ancestors** were slaves. But when he wanted to attend the University of Maryland Law School, the school rejected him because he was black. Marshall had to go to a different law school.

Later, in one of his first court cases, Marshall helped a young African American student sue the University of Maryland. The school had denied him admission, too.

Marshall worked hard to win **numerous** cases. One of his best-known trials was *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954. In this case, the Supreme Court decided to end **segregation** in schools. The Court made it illegal for black students and white students to be sent to separate locations.

# **Ruby Bridges**

In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges was the first black child to go to an all-white school in the South. Ruby was young and **unsuspecting**. She didn't realize how brave she was to do this. The white parents decided to take their children out of school. For a whole year, Ruby and her teacher were the only people there. Eventually, some white children returned. The following year, more black children came. Ruby Bridges made a difference.

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a leader in the 1950s and 1960s. He **avoided** violence and asked others to fight in peaceful ways to end **injustice**.

King organized a march on Washington, D.C. There, he and thousands of others demanded equal rights for all people. He gave a famous speech that day. He said, "I have a dream." King's dream was that all people would be treated fairly and equally.



#### **Reread for Comprehension**

#### Evaluate

Author's Purpose Does the author use facts or humor to get her point across? Facts suggest an author wants to inform the reader. Humor suggests an author is writing to entertain.

An Author's Purpose Map can help you evaluate what you read. Reread the selection to find the author's purpose.

