

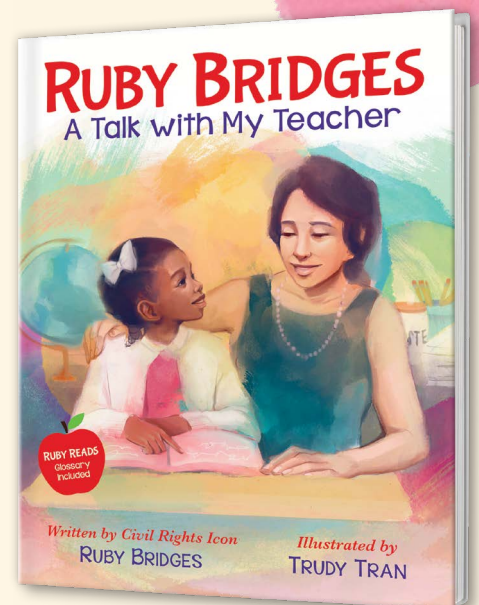
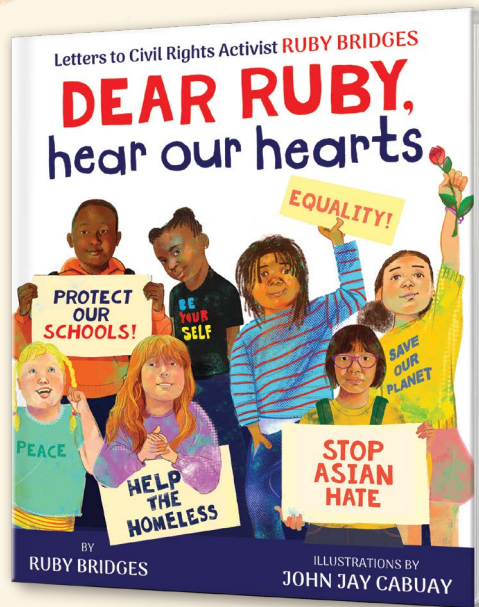
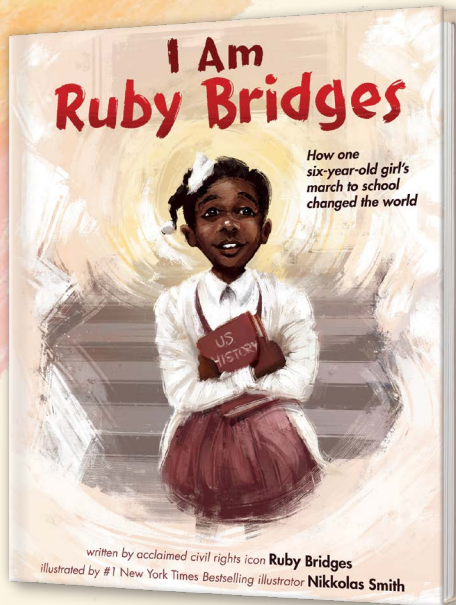
# ACTIVITY GUIDE



The Picture Books of Civil Rights Activist

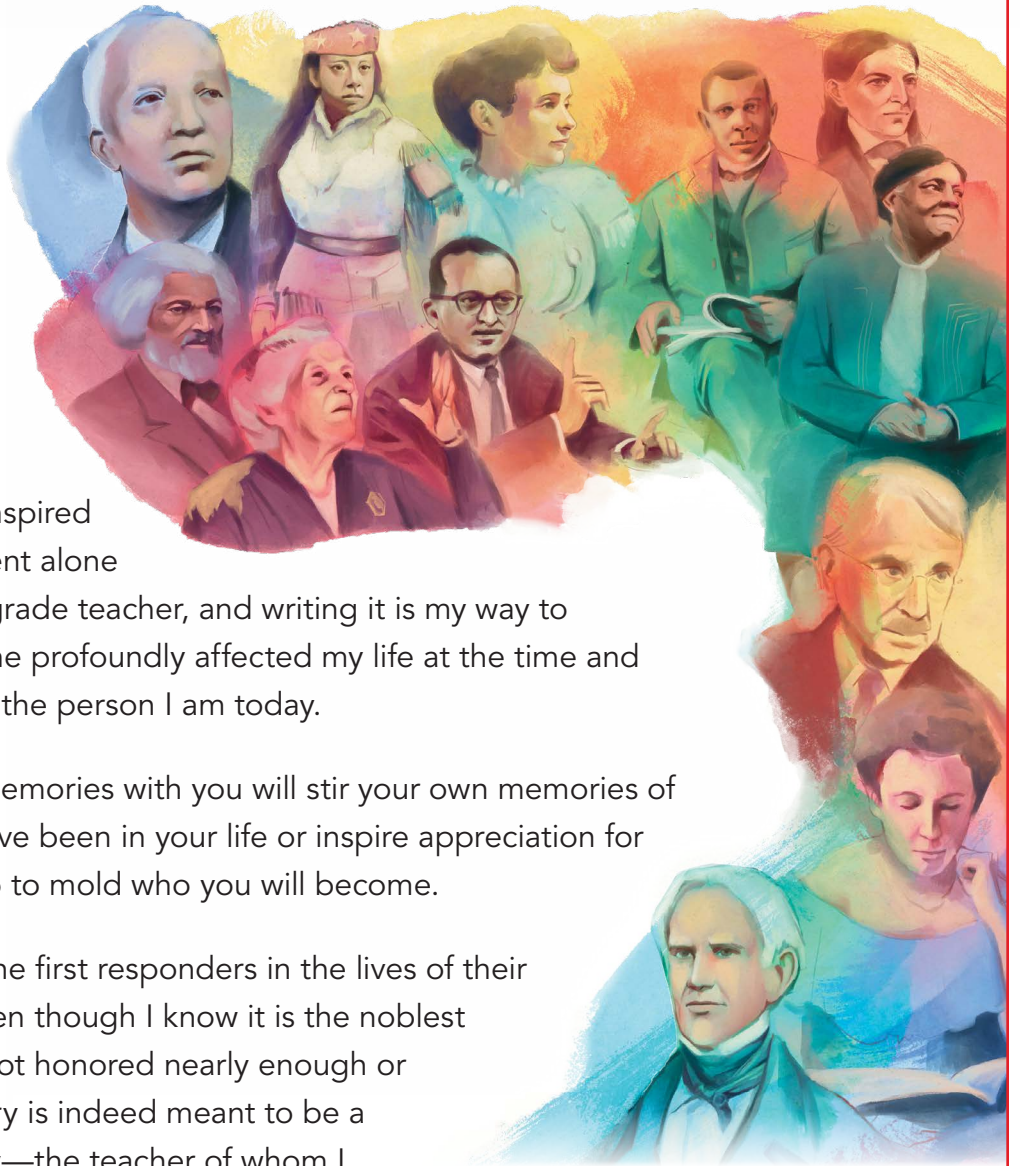
# RUBY BRIDGES

AGES 4-10  
GRADES P-4



The Power of Story  
Building Equitable Bookshelves

# A Letter from Civil Rights Icon and Author Ruby Bridges



*A Talk with My Teacher* was inspired by memories of the year I spent alone with Barbara Henry, my first-grade teacher, and writing it is my way to honor her and all teachers. She profoundly affected my life at the time and helped shape me to become the person I am today.

My hope is that sharing my memories with you will stir your own memories of a certain teacher who may have been in your life or inspire appreciation for what a special teacher can do to mold who you will become.

After all, teachers today are the first responders in the lives of their students, our babies. And even though I know it is the noblest of professions, teachers are not honored nearly enough or appreciated as such. This story is indeed meant to be a tribute, not just to Mrs. Henry—the teacher of whom I am most fond—but a tribute to all teachers who have chosen to shape the lives of children, including this country’s future leaders.

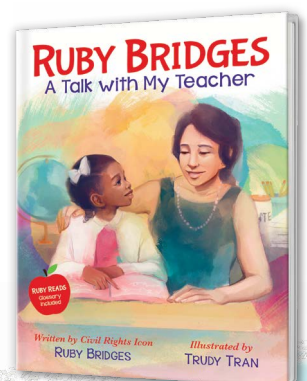
I personally want to thank my teacher, and all of yours, for their contributions and for choosing to be educators.

Well done!



Photo by Tom Durnont

*Ruby*



# My Reunion Day

Mrs. Henry and Ruby reunite after 35 years! Imagine a reunion with someone you like to spend time with. In the space below, brainstorm words that would describe your reunion. How would you feel when you reunited? What would you like to do together? Where would you be when you meet again? What might you want to talk about? Then, fill in the blanks in the sentences below! You can use this page as inspiration to write a story or draw a picture of your reunion on a separate sheet of paper.

## Word Brainstorm

### My Reunion Day with

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME

When I reunite with \_\_\_\_\_, we will

NAME

meet at/in \_\_\_\_\_.

PLACE

\_\_\_\_\_

ACTIVITY / VERB

I would like to talk to \_\_\_\_\_ about

NAME

\_\_\_\_\_

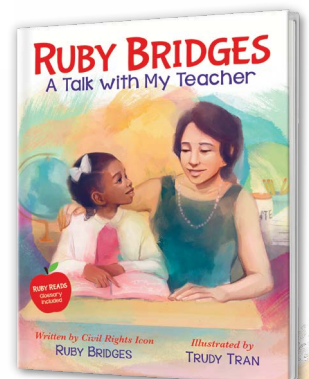
TOPIC(S)

I feel \_\_\_\_\_

EMOTION(S)

\_\_\_\_\_ to reunite!

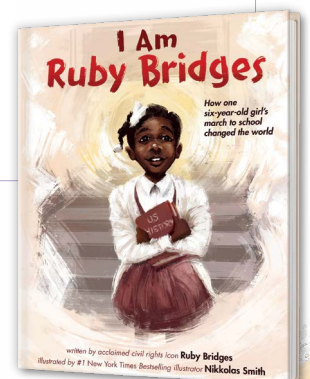
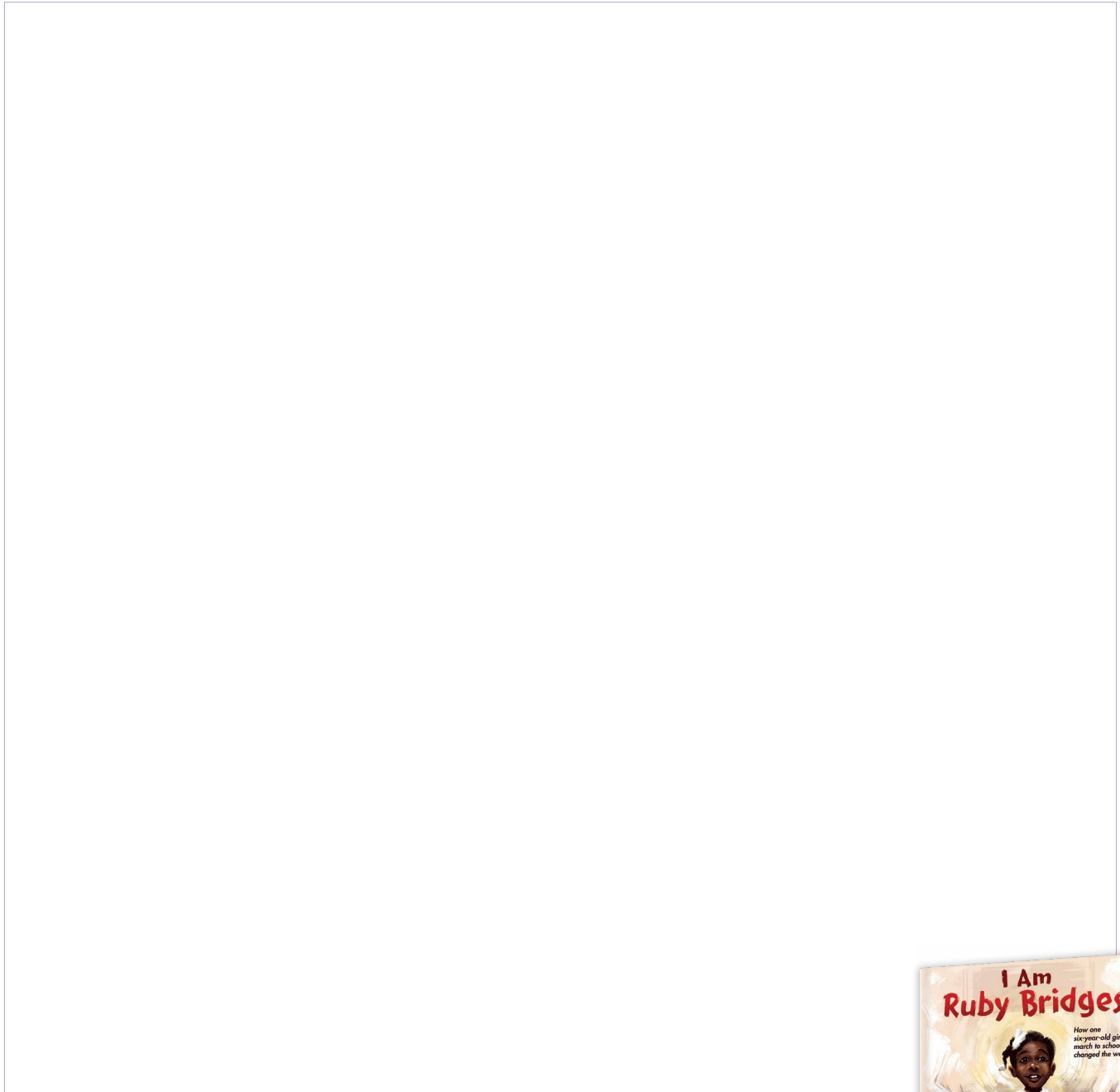
EMOTION(S)





# Signs of Kindness

Six-year-old Ruby Bridges is alone when she walks into her new school. What would it feel like to be supported and accepted instead? Use the space below to plan and/or design a sign that would make you feel welcome in a new place—feel free to use both words and images! For the actual sign, you can use paper, poster board, cardboard, or whatever you have available. Consider how large the images and words should be to be visible in a crowd. If you're in a group, you can also practice having one person at a time walk through a doorway to see the signs and hear welcoming cheers!



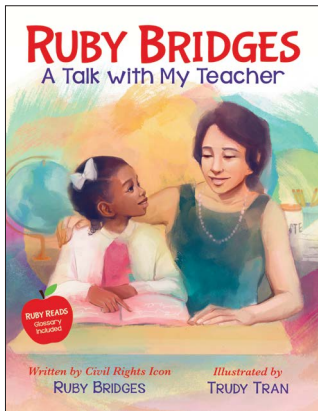
This activity was adapted from the *I Am Ruby Bridges* Reading Guide created by Autumn Allen for Scholastic.



TM/© SCHOLASTIC INC. Art © 2024 by Trudy Tran

# About the Books

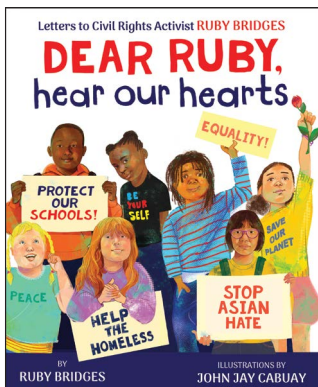
Be sure to check out the back matter in each book for lists of resources, glossaries, and more curated by Ruby Bridges!



## **Ruby Bridges: A Talk with My Teacher**

By Ruby Bridges  
Illustrated by Trudy Tran  
HC: 9781338753943 • \$19.99  
Ages 4–8 • Grades P–3  
Also available in ebook  
On Sale January 7, 2025

**Acclaimed civil rights icon Ruby Bridges shares the touching tale of reuniting with the first-grade teacher who changed her life, Mrs. Henry.** When Ruby Bridges was only six years old, she made history by being the first Black child to integrate William Frantz Elementary School. She became best friends with her teacher, Mrs. Henry. Excited to come back for her second year, Ruby is soon devastated to learn that Mrs. Henry isn't her second-grade teacher. Where did Mrs. Henry go? Can Ruby ever reconnect with her favorite teacher? A love letter to teachers who hold the power to change lives, *Ruby Bridges: A Talk with My Teacher* illuminates the lasting impact that the best of teachers can have on the lives of their students. Trudy Tran's emotive rendering of Ruby Bridges from childhood to adulthood brings new life to this heartwarming story of a reunion between two long-lost best friends.



**Dear Ruby: Hear Our Hearts**  
By Ruby Bridges  
Illustrated by John Jay Cabuay  
HC: 9781338753912 • \$18.99  
Ages 5–10 • Grades K–4  
Also available in ebook

**National civil rights activist and icon Ruby Bridges responds to letters from thoughtful and concerned young students from across America.** Ruby Bridges was the first Black child to attend an all-white elementary school in New Orleans. She established the Ruby Bridges Foundation to promote tolerance and to create change through education. She traveled across the US, listening to the inspiring voices of young children. *Dear Ruby, Hear Our Hearts* is a compilation of letters from concerned young students about today's issues, including bullying, climate change, gun violence, and racism. Reading Ruby's intuitive and inspirational responses, young readers will embrace the courage to be brave, bold, and confident. The students' letters and Ruby's responses are powerfully illustrated with dynamic and thought-provoking artwork by John Jay Cabuay.

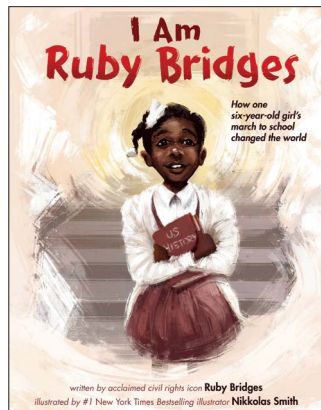
**"The issues that matter to young Americans come alive in Cabuay's energetic illustrations, which make deft use of color and texture."**

—Kirkus Reviews

**"Affirming . . . supports budding activist readers with relatable scenarios."**

—Publishers Weekly

## About the Books (continued)



### ***I Am Ruby Bridges***

By Ruby Bridges

Illustrated by Nikkolas Smith

HC: 9781338753882 • \$18.99

Ages 4–8 • Grades P–3

Also available in ebook and audio

When Ruby Bridges was six years old, she became the first Black child to integrate the all-white William Frantz Elementary in Louisiana. Based on the pivotal events that happened in 1960 and told from her point of view, this is a poetic reflection on her experience that changed the face of history and the trajectory of the Civil Rights Movement. *I Am Ruby Bridges* offers hope and confidence to all children. It is the perfect learning tool for schools and libraries to teach the story of Ruby Bridges and introduce this landmark story to young readers in a powerful new way. This story of innocence and courage is brought to life by NAACP-nominated artist Nikkolas Smith through stunning and breathtaking illustrations. Embracing the meaning of her name, Bridges reflects with poignancy and heart on the way one brave little girl stood proud to help build a bridge between all people and pave the path for future generations.

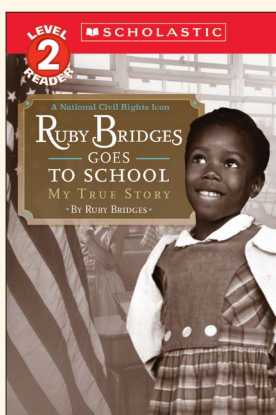
★ **“Any picture book collection tackling the Civil Rights Movement has to start here. Highly recommended for all shelves.”**

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

**“[A] worthwhile and unique introduction to the civil rights era . . . told from a childhood point of view that allows for an intimate connection with primary readers.”** —*Horn Book*

**“A unique angle on a watershed moment in the civil rights era.”** —*Kirkus Reviews*

## Further Reading



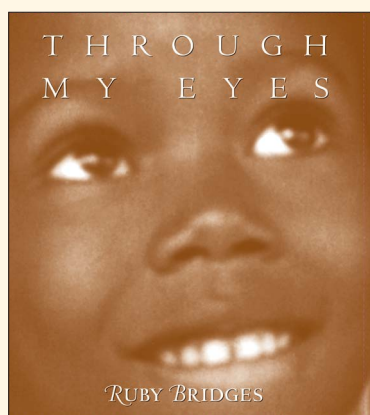
### ***Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story***

By Ruby Bridges

PB: 9780545108553 • \$5.99

Ages 4–8 • Grades P–3

Also available in ebook



### ***Through My Eyes: Ruby Bridges***

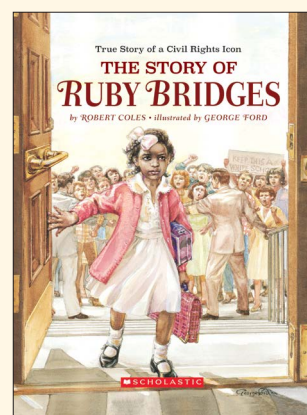
By Ruby Bridges

Edited by Margo Lundell

HC: 9780590189231 • \$17.99

Ages 9–12 • Grades 4–7

Also available in ebook and audio



### ***The Story of Ruby Bridges***

By Robert Coles

Illustrated by George Ford

HC: 9780590572811 • \$19.99

PB: 9780439472265 • \$7.99

Spanish PB: 9781338767490 • \$7.99

Ages 4–8 • Grades P–3

Also available in ebook

# Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day Is November 14!

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day is an annual day of dialogue to commemorate Ruby's historic steps as the first Black student at William Frantz Elementary. This initiative began with a question from a group of AAA School Safety Patrollers from Martin Elementary in South San Francisco: "Why isn't there a day named after Ruby Bridges?" These fifth-grade students took their idea to the California State Legislature, and now the state of California recognizes November 14 each year as a day to commemorate Bridges's courage and the power of young people. The Ruby Bridges Foundation encourages young people, schools, and communities all over the world to participate in a day of dialogue, reflect, and take action on a topic or goal that is important to their communities.

**Learn more and sign up to participate at [rubybridges.foundation/walk-to-school-day](https://rubybridges.foundation/walk-to-school-day).**

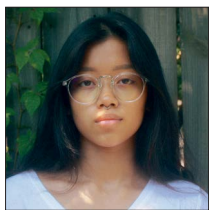
## About Ruby Bridges



Photo by Tom Dumont

**RUBY BRIDGES** is a civil rights icon, activist, author, and speaker who, at the age of six, was the first Black student to integrate William Frantz Elementary, an all-white elementary school in Louisiana. Bridges is the recipient of numerous awards, including the NAACP Martin Luther King Award and the Presidential Citizens Medal, and she has received honorary doctorate degrees from Connecticut College; College of New Rochelle; Teachers College, Columbia University; and Tulane University. In 2024, Bridges was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. Bridges is also the author of *I Am Ruby Bridges*; *Through My Eyes*; *This Is Your Time*; and *Dear Ruby, Hear Our Hearts*. Ruby lives in Louisiana with her family. Learn more at [rubybridges.com](https://rubybridges.com).

## About the Illustrators



**TRUDY TRAN**, illustrator of *Ruby Bridges: A Talk with My Teacher*, is an artist based in Atlanta, Georgia. She is a muralist, painter, and illustrator. As a mixed-media artist, she expresses her ideas through many different mediums, including oil paint, ink, and digital illustrations. She loves to experiment with colors and different techniques in her pieces. Her work exhibits her interest in exploring a wide range of cultures, especially through the clothing, traditions, and unique identities of different groups. She also enjoys showcasing her love for nature and the nostalgia of memories in her pieces. Her love for storytelling is clearly highlighted in her work.



**JOHN JAY CABUAY** is the illustrator of *Dear Ruby, Hear Our Hearts*. He also illustrated *Get Up, Stand Up* by Bob Marley. His illustrations have graced the covers of newspapers, magazines, and book jackets worldwide. He received his MFA in Illustration from the Fashion Institute of Technology. John Jay lives in New York City with his family.



Photo by Vanessa Crocini

**NIKKOLAS SMITH**, illustrator of *I Am Ruby Bridges*, is a native of Houston, Texas, and a Master of Architecture recipient from Hampton University. He is an ARTivist, concept artist, children's book author, film illustrator, and movie poster designer. His books include *The Artivist*, *The Golden Girls of Rio* (nominated for an NAACP Image Award), *My Hair Is Poofy and That's Okay*, and *World Cup Women*. He is also the illustrator of *New York Times* bestseller *The 1619 Project: Born on the Water*, *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever: The Courage to Dream*, and *That Flag*. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

Some elements of this guide were adapted from the *I Am Ruby Bridges* Reading Guide created by Autumn Allen for Scholastic.

 SCHOLASTIC

[Scholastic.com/PowerOfStory](https://Scholastic.com/PowerOfStory)

