Our country was very different 50 years ago. In many places, white children and African-American children did not go to school together. But a little girl named Ruby Bridges was about to make a big change.
Ruby's Story

In 1960, Ruby started first grade at a new school. The school had always been for white children only. Ruby was the first African-American child to go there.

Some people were angry that things were changing. They stood outside the school. They yelled at Ruby. The President sent guards to keep her safe.

Ruby was brave. She walked straight into the school.

Ruby All Alone

Many white parents did not want their children to go to school with Ruby. They took their children out of the school. Ruby was put in a class all by herself. She was lonely. But she kept going to school each week.

People yelled at Ruby and held up signs outside her school.
**Changes Begin**

Newspapers wrote articles about Ruby. People saw that things needed to change. At the end of the school year, some white children came back to Ruby’s school. They got to play with Ruby a little bit. But she was still alone in her class.

**Everyone Together**

The next year, Ruby started second grade. She walked into her new classroom. She couldn’t believe her eyes. The room was full of white and African-American children. Everyone was together! And it was all because of brave Ruby.

**Ruby Today**

Now Ruby is all grown up. She is married and has four children. Ruby’s nieces went to the same school she went to long ago!

Ruby wrote a book about her life. She goes to schools. She teaches children how important it is for everyone to be together.
Hooray for Ruby Bridges!

Answer the questions. Use the article on pages 2 and 3 to help.

1. Which was true about Ruby in first grade?
   - She was the only girl at her school.
   - She was the only African-American child at her school.
   - She was the only 6-year-old at her school.

2. How did the President help Ruby?
   - He sent guards to keep her safe.
   - He visited her school.
   - He brought her to the White House.

3. What was Ruby’s first-grade class like?
   - It was full of children.
   - She was the only student.
   - She did not have a teacher.

4. What is “Changes Begin” mostly about?
   - People saw that things needed to change because of Ruby.
   - Ruby started first grade in 1960.
   - When Ruby grew up, she wrote a book.

5. What had changed when Ruby started second grade?
   - There were no girls in her school.
   - White children and African-American children were in the same class.
   - There were first-grade and second-grade students in the same class.

Name