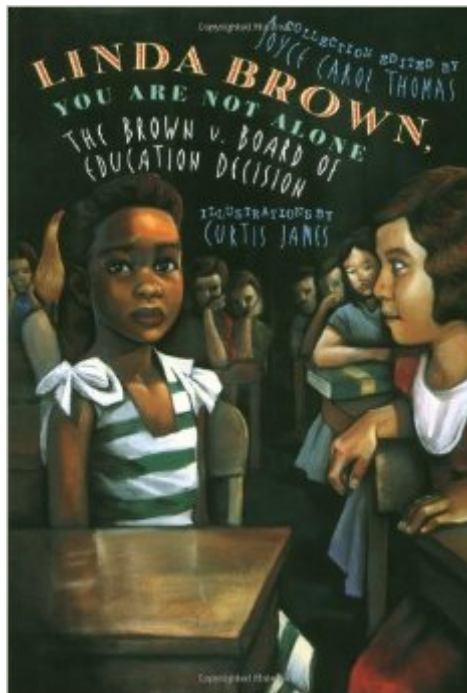


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# Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone: The Brown Vs. Board Of Education Decision



## Synopsis

When the Supreme Court decision to desegregate public schools was handed down in 1954, the course of American history was forever changed. Here are personal reflections, stories, and poems from ten of today's most accomplished writers for children, all young people themselves at the time of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Included are Michael Cart, Jean Craighead George, Eloise Greenfield, Lois Lowry, Katherine Paterson, Ishmael Reed, Jerry Spinelli, Quincy Troupe, Joyce Carol Thomas, and Leona Nicholas Welch. With a compelling introduction by editor Joyce Carol Thomas and stunning pastel artwork by Curtis E. James, this collection celebrates the hard-earned promise of equality in education.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 560L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 144 pages

Publisher: Hyperion Book CH; 1 edition (December 2, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0786808217

ISBN-13: 978-0786808212

Product Dimensions: 6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #984,900 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #120 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime](#) #309 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism & Collections](#) #587 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

One of the most moving and memorable reading experiences that your child will have is "Linda Brown, You Are Not Alone," edited by the celebrated children's author, Joyce Carol Thomas. Cover-to-cover, from the commemorative opening of this volume of stories and the stirring introduction by Ms. Thomas, to the very last story, this is by far one of the best anthologies that has been written for young people. In Jerry Spinelli, Eloise Greenfield, Lois Lowry, Quincy Troupe, Katherine, Joyce Carol Thomas, Michael Cart, Ishmael Reed, Jean Craighead George, Leona

Nicholas Welch, you will find some of the finest writing in a single volume. Joyce Carol Thomas has managed to gather together this very fine ensemble of writers and asked them to remember where they were when the Brown vs. Board of Education decision was handed down by the Supreme Court. They have all written stories worth reading over and over again. A full range of emotions, are expressed in these pages-anger, despair, hope, humor, sadness. These writers speak very forthrightly about racism, segregation, and injustice. They speak candidly about their own fears, loss of innocence, and their own hope for the future. They speak about the work that we still have to do as a society to bring full equality to every person. They also speak about our miserable failure at doing so. This is one of the strongest aspects of this collection-that it never condescends to its intended audience. The editor and the writers rightfully expect that their young readers have the maturity and the intellectual capacity to be able to embrace the varied truths and emotions expressed in this book. A volume like this requires that kind of trust between writer and reader. And, this makes this book one of the very best that I have read.

Well, I have had this book for four years, and it is about time I wrote about it, so that I can share its awesomeness with other readers! Award-winning writer, Joyce Carol Thomas, collected and edited essays and poems written at her request by her fellow authors of literature for young people for this small volume in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Supreme Court decision, "Brown vs. Board of Education". Although the Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, Rev. Brown, thus allowing his eight year old daughter, Linda Brown, to attend a "white" elementary school in Topeka, Kansas; and made segregation of races illegal in twenty States, there was a long, long road ahead toward integration and better treatment of African Americans within the U.S. This is a beautiful and powerful book befitting to the occasion of remembering what it is like then and how things were, both the good and the bad, between races, back in 1954, and, while looking back, helps us to examine where we are now, and perhaps reflect on what lies ahead. How must it have been for such a small child such as Linda Brown to both symbolically be at the forefront of desegregation of schools and, effectively, our society? She must have been very brave, walking alone and unwanted into that all-white school. Physically she was there with the other children of her age, yet effectively she was very, very alone. Her family wanted her to have a good education and get equal treatment. Up to that point, the schools were arranged according to the principle "separate, but equal", yet this was far from the reality of the situation.

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