

# “STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION”

By  
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## **Synopsis**

Throughout the history of America, Black Americans have always struggled for equal access to education. This sketch recounts three major education struggles in the history of African Americans: Freedom to Learn; Justice to Learn, and Funding to Learn.

**Slogan:** “A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste” UNCF (United Negro College Fund).

## **Ministry Lesson**

Education has, and will always be, the key that opens the door of opportunity. Today, God is calling us to answer the prayers of our family and friends to help a child go to college. As we focus on Black History Month, let’s support the education of our youth. This sketch emphasizes the need for churches to raise funds for their Scholarship Ministry or to support Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

## **Ministry Focus**

Giving - Scholarship Fund

**Genre:** Drama

## **Cast**

Narrator  
Slave Mother  
Slave Daughter (10-12)  
Mrs. Bridges  
Little Ruby Bridges (6-7)  
Modern Day Mother  
Modern Day Teen Girl (16-17)

## **Costumes**

Slaves clothing - Slave mother and daughter  
Year 1960 clothing - Ruby Bridges and mother  
Modern Day clothing - mother and teenager

## **Props**

Lantern or candle  
Old raggedy book  
Hair comb  
School notebook  
School lunch bag  
Kitchen table and 2 chairs  
Financial Aid forms and college applications

**Time:** 10 min.

## **Director’s Note:**

All three scenes are established on stage at the same time: Slave scene (stage right), Ruby’s scene (center stage), and Modern Day scene (stage left). The Narrator will begin (far stage right) and walk toward each scene as he/she introduces the scene. At the beginning of the sketch, all characters are “frozen” on stage. The characters in each scene “comes to life” as the narrator approaches and introduces their scene.

STRUGGLE - FREEDOM TO LEARN

INT. BARN

(Slave mother; slave daughter)

MOTHER HUDDLES NEXT WITH DAUGHTER WITH A CANDLE (OR LANTERN). THE YOUNG GIRL IS HOLDING AN OLD RAGGEDY BOOK

NARRATOR APPROACH SETTING

**NARRATOR**

In the year 1619, Africans were brought to America to serve as indentured servants and by 1641 the first American colonies established the institution of slavery . For over 200 hundred years, slaves were deprive some their rights and privileges in pursuit of life, liberty, happiness, and an education. Slaves owners believed the longer their slaves remained uneducated the longer they would accept their condition. Slaves were often punished for trying to learn to read, but that did not stop them.

**DAUGHTER**

(rubbing eyes) Momma, why we up so early?

**MOTHER**

(looking around nervously) Hush now, we gotta do somethin' secret. You can't let no one know. No one! You hear me child?

**DAUGHTER**

Yes, Momma

MOTHER RETRIEVES A BOOK FROM UNDER HER SWEATER AND HANDS IT TO HER DAUGHTER

**DAUGHTER**

What's this?

**MOTHER**

It's a learnin' book. Masta's wife gave it to me when I was a little girl. She taught me to read before she died. I been hidin' this here book for 20 years, so I can teach my chile to read too. But can't nobody know you learnin'.

**DAUGHTER**

Why I need to read?

**MOTHER**

(rubs daughter's hair) 'Cause I pray to God you will be free one day. So you must learn to read 'cause it will help you be free.

DAUGHTER OPENS BOOK. MOTHER BEGINS TO TEACH

(FREEZE SCENE)

**NARRATOR**

The time would come when God used great men to free us from the bonds of slavery. Though free, we were still not considered equal.

STRUGGLE - JUSTICE TO LEARN

INT. HOME

(Little Ruby Bridges and Mrs. Bridges)

MRS. BRIDGES IS PREPARING HER DAUGHTER FOR SCHOOL; COMBING HAIR AND STRAIGHTENING HER CLOTHES. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR LITTLE RUBY.

NARRATOR APPROACH SETTING

**NARRATOR**

After slavery ended, colored folks still could not enjoy of all the freedom America offered to its citizens. We lived in a segregated society and although we now had access to public education, it was far from equal. But in 1960 God strengthen the parents of a little girl named Ruby Bridges. On November 14th 1960, Mrs. Bridges had a conversation with her little girl that help to change our nation.

MOTHER IS COMBING RUBY'S HAIR.

**MRS. BRIDGES**

Now, Ruby it's really, really important that you be nice in school today, okay?

**RUBY**

But why do I have to go to a new school?

**MRS. BRIDGES**

This school is much better school than your old school and it's only a few blocks away.

**RUBY**

Will all my friends be there?

MOTHER TURNS RUBY AROUND TO FACE HER.

**MRS. BRIDGES**

No baby, you will have to make new friends. But I will be there with you until you do, okay?

**RUBY**

Okay.

MRS. BRIDGES HANDS LITTLE RUBY HER NOTEBOOK AND LUNCH BAG  
AND GIVES RUBY A BIG HUG

FREEZE SCENE

**NARRATOR**

That morning Federal Marshals escorted little Ruby Bridges and her mother to the William Frantz Public School, and Ruby becomes one of the first color girls to desegregated an all white public school in New Orleans.

STRUGGLE - FUNDING TO LEARN

INT. KITCHEN TABLE

(Mother and Teen Girl)

MOTHER AND TEEN DAUGHTER ARE SITTING AT THE KITCHEN TABLE GOING OVER FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS. THEY ARE DESPERATELY TRYING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO PAY FOR THE DAUGHTER'S COLLEGE EDUCATION.

NARRATOR APPROACH SETTING

**NARRATOR**

Today, we as a people have come a long way. By the grace of God, we have survived slavery, endured segregation, passed laws for civil rights, honored a great African American with a national holiday, and elected the first African American as President of the United States. But these great achievements do not eliminate our need and our struggle to obtain a qualify education. This struggle continues.

**TEEN GIRL**

(searching through papers) Momma did you see the FAFSA letter?

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- End of Preview -

Do you want to know how this script ends?  
There's a strong message and encouragement to give at the end.

Return to the selection list and click the "**Buy**" button.

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