

BROWN V. BOARD AT 70

On May 17, 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* declaring that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" on the basis that it violated the 14th Amendment guaranteeing equal protection of the law. It remains a defining moment in U.S. History.

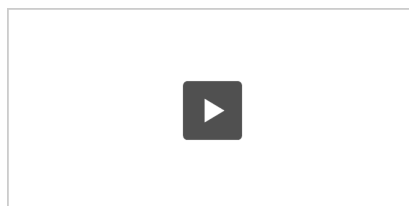
The late John Lewis was 14 in 1954. He recalls feeling hopeful for a better future when he learned of the Brown decision and often shared this optimism and conviction to work for justice. "When you see something that is not right, not fair, not just, we have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate to do something, to say something, to speak up and speak out."



- Commemorate the 70th anniversary of Brown and reaffirm Lewis' work with your students by watching Life Stories' documentary short *John Lewis: His Last March*.
- Watch the first few minutes of the Life Stories [interview](#) with Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and hear his point of view on the significance of the Brown decision.

Take time for questions on their messages and invite students to reflect on how far we have come and where we need to focus our work in education today.

SPOTLIGHT: HONORING THE WORK OF FAITH RINGGOLD



This month award-winning author and artist Faith Ringgold died at the age of 93.

Ringgold's highly personal works of art can be seen in collections across the United States and she is recognized as a leader in breaking down barriers as a Black female artist.

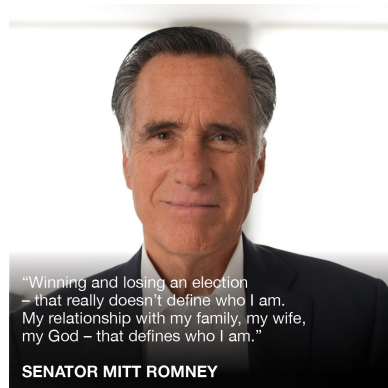
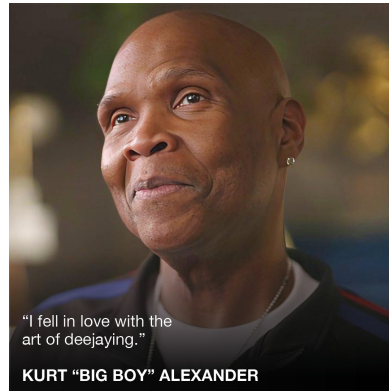
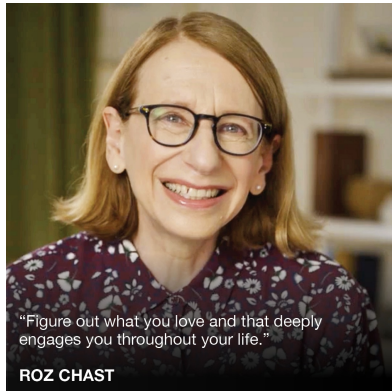
Life Stories honors her life and we invite you to celebrate her with your students.

- Watch [this clip](#) from Instagram where Faith Ringgold shares how important one's identity is to both creativity and storytelling
- See her full interview [here](#)
- Share our [biography](#) in your classroom and connect her work to student's lives
- Use [this clip](#) from the MAKERS series we produced

Learn more about her tremendous body of artistic work [here](#).

THE THREAD: Listen to April's Storytellers

The five storytellers that premiered this month in Season One of THE THREAD all share a core commitment to live their life with purpose and meaning.



Watch their full episodes on [Life Stories YouTube channel](#) and shorter clips on [Instagram Reels](#). Listen to *The Thread* on the [Life Stories Podcast](#).

LOOKING FORWARD

Stay tuned for four more episodes and lessons of *The Thread* that will be released weekly!

May 6: Reginald Dwayne Betts, *A Voice for the Incarcerated*

May 13: Tony Hawk, *Finding Your Passion*

May 20: Darren Walker, *Hope and Courage in Action*

May 27: Katie Couric, *From Tragedies to Triumphs*

July 12-13

National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE) Conference 2024

Make a date with media literacy this summer! Join the upcoming virtual conference organized by NAMLE for open and honest dialogue between educators and experts on the state of #MediaLiteracy. We will be presenting a session on July 13! [Register here.](#)

November 21-23

National Council of Teachers of English Conference (NCTE) 2024

Save the Date this Fall for a trip to Boston for the annual NCTE conference. We'll be presenting a session "Documentary Storytelling: Teaching Compassion and Solidarity Alongside Argument and Critical Media Literacy" focusing on THE THREAD episodes and launching a new national partnership we will be announcing soon! [More information here.](#)

We'd love to hear from you! Contact Fran @ fran@lifestories.org



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