

# Fight for your right!

The Civil Rights Movement in the USA



**... etwas über die  
Bürgerrechtsbewegung für  
Schwarze in den USA.**

**... Bilder zu  
beschreiben.**

**... Menschen zu  
beschreiben.**

**... eigene  
Gedanken und  
Gefühle  
festzuhalten.**



**Hier lerne ich ...**

**... Briefe zu  
schreiben.**

## Durchführung des Bausteins:

1. Ich erledige die Aufgaben in der vorgegebenen Reihenfolge.
2. Ich notiere die Aufgabe in mein Heft.
3. Ich schreibe die Lösungen der Aufgaben ordentlich und in der richtigen Reihenfolge darunter.
4. Wenn ich alle Aufgaben erledigt habe, übergebe ich sie meinem/r Lehrer/in.
5. Ziel ist, dass ich so viel wie möglich alleine erledige.
6. Sollte ich Aufgabenstellungen nicht verstehen, hier ein paar Vokabelhilfen:

English	German
segregation	Rassentrennung/Aussonderung
describe	beschreiben
to expect	erwarten
expression	Ausdrücke
precise	genau
opinion	Meinung
notes	Notizen
linking words	Verbindungswörter
grid	Tabelle
at least	mindestens

**Du kannst dir jederzeit ein Wörterbuch zur Hilfe nehmen.**

## Task 1:

### What can you see in the picture? - What do you expect of the text “The reality of school segregation”?

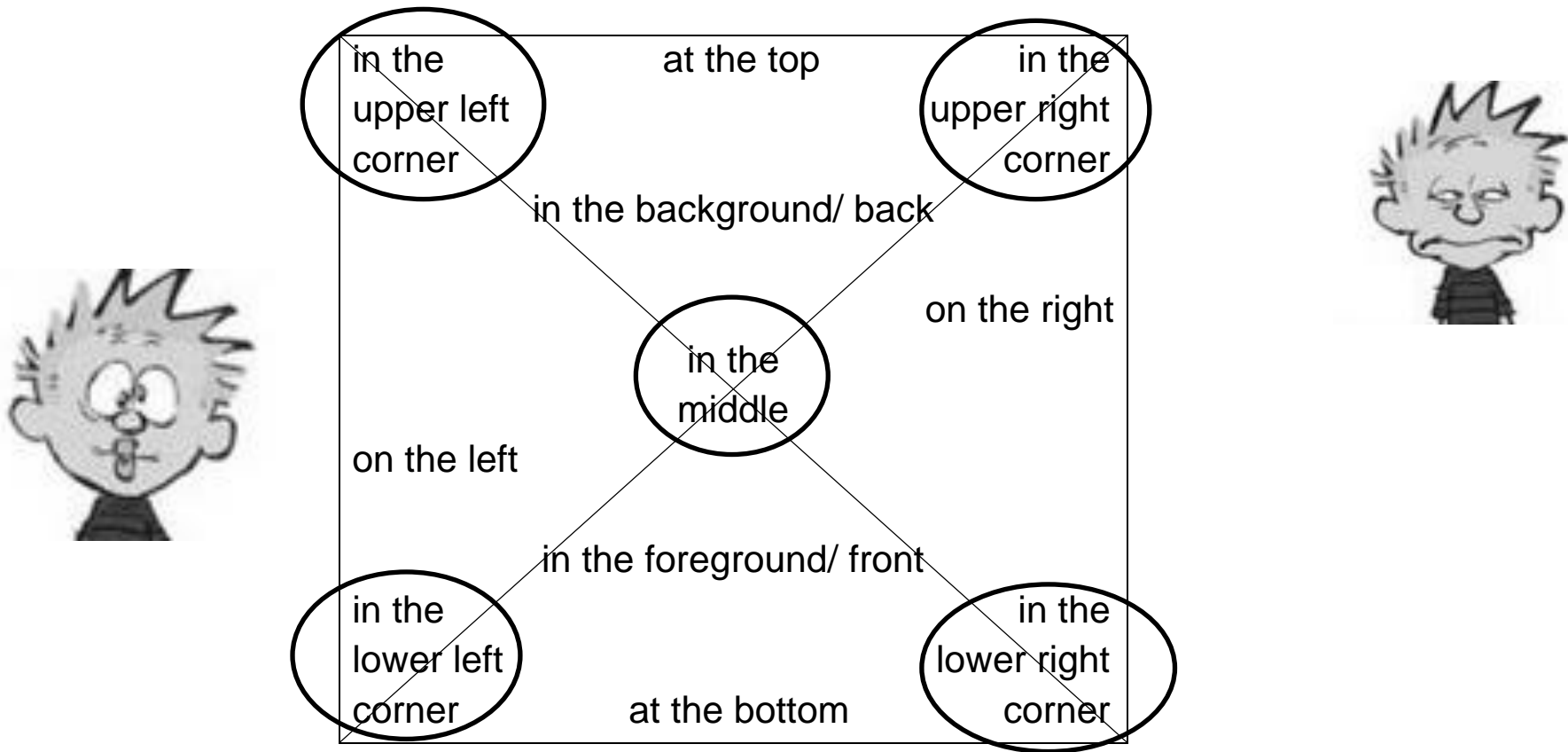
- a) Look at these two pictures. They were taken during the time of segregation in the 1950s in the USA. Choose one picture and describe what you see. Write about 40 words into your folder.

**Picture A:** In the front of the picture are three white boys who are about 14 years old. Around their necks they...

**Picture B:** In this picture I see many black school kids. In the lower right corner there is ...



Expressions/words that will help you describing your picture:



Use these prepositions to be more precise:

• *behind* • *between* • *in front of* • *next to* • *under* • *over*

- b) You are going to read something about segregation in American schools in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. BEFORE you read it, write down two things you expect to read about.

## Task 2:

### Write a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People<sup>1</sup> (NAACP).

- a) On the next page are some statements from white and black students around the time of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Read them.

How do they make you feel? Write about 30 words into your folder.

Here are some expressions that might help you.

*I feel...    In my opinion,...    I don't understand why...    I believe...*

*If I were...    I think it's not fair that...    Why....?    I think...*

*It's good that...    I'm surprised/shocked that...*



### b) Imagine...

... you are one of the black students and want to do something to improve the situation at the school.

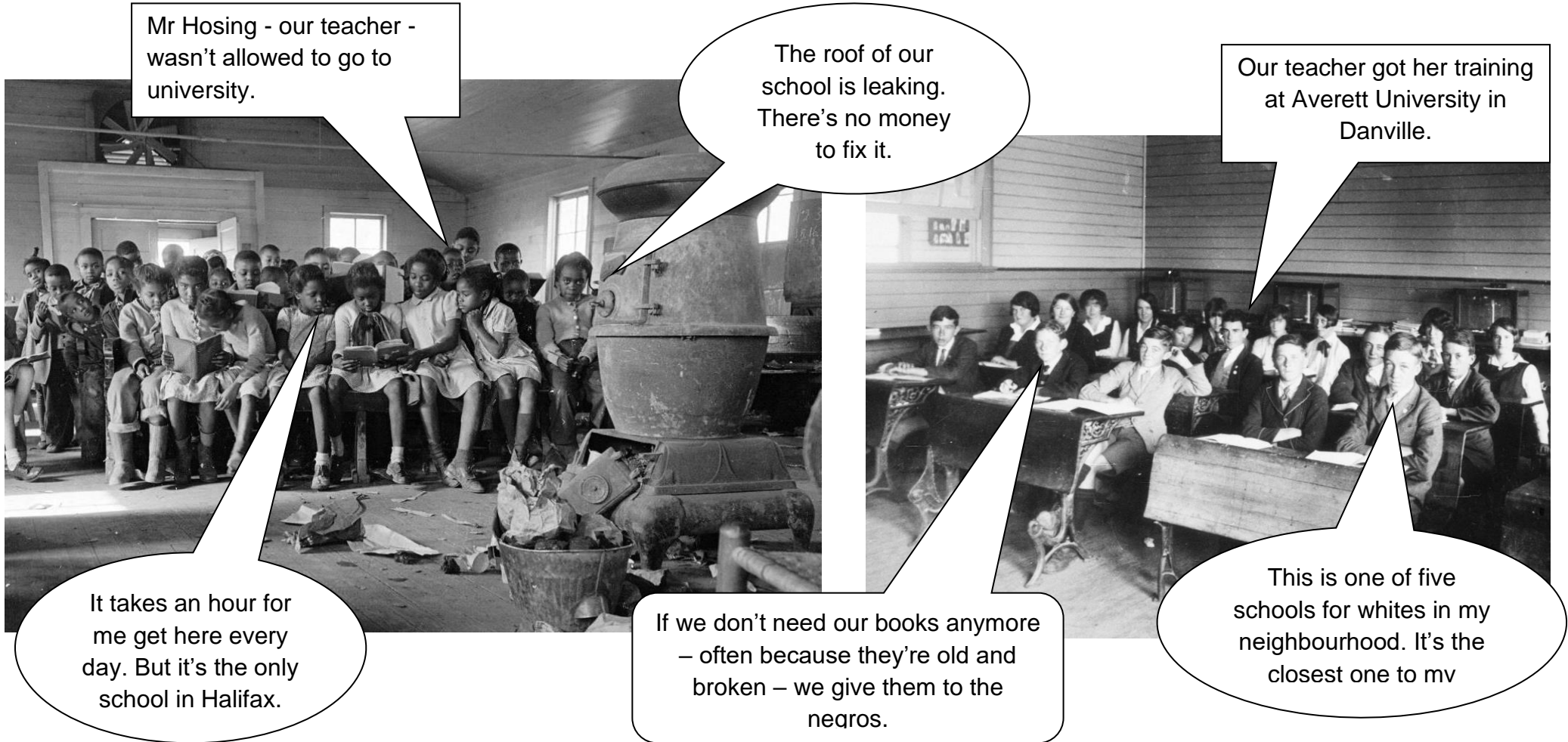
Write a letter (about 100 words) to the NAACP into your folder and ask for help.

- Start the letter by introducing yourself.
- The main part of your letter should show the problems at your school or the unfairness compared to the white schools  
(Use **at least three of the statements** on the next page!)
- Make sure to ask for help in the end.

There are some expressions on the back of the next page that will help you with your letter.

<sup>1</sup> National Association for the Advancement of Colored People = Nationale Vereinigung für das Vorankommen von Farbigen

Statements from white and black students around the time of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century:



Here are some expressions that will help you with your formal letter (b):

Beginning a letter:

Dear Mr/Mrs ... Dear Sir or Madam,

Introducing yourself:

My name is... I'm ... I go to school at... ..

Writing about the problem:

I'm writing to you because ... I would like to let you know that...

Asking for help:

It would make me very happy if... Please... Could/Would you...?

Finishing a letter:

I'm looking forward to hearing from you... I hope... ..

End of a letter:

Yours sincerely, ...



**Task 3:**

**Characterizing a person from the text “Brown v. Board of Education”**

a) Read the text “Brown vs. Board of Education” on the next page.

When you are finished, make notes into your folder about the three people in the text.

Linda Brown:

- *black*
- *born in Topeka, Kansas*
- 

Oliver Brown:

- *father of ...*
- ...

Bryan:

- *white boy*
- *neighbour of*

b) Before you write the description find some linking words for your text. Write them into a grid like this:

linking words	
ENG	GER
<i>and</i>	<i>und</i>
<i>but</i>	<i>aber</i>
...	...

- c) Now choose one person you think is interesting and write a description about him/her into your folder. It should be about 60 words long.

Example:

*Linda was born in ... She liked to...*

## “Brown vs. Board of Education”

Linda Brown was born on February 20, 1942, in Topeka, Kansas. She grew up with her two small sisters in a racially mixed neighbourhood.



Until she was a third-grader<sup>2</sup> she had to walk one mile through a railroad switchyard<sup>3</sup> to get to the bus stop where a bus took her to her black elementary school. From her house door to the school room it took her about two hours! The Sumner Elementary School – a school only for white children - was only seven blocks away. She thought it was terribly unfair that some of her white neighbors, Bryan Lynn for example, went there. He is the same age as Linda and they knew each other a little. Bryan liked Linda.

She helped him once when he fell from his bike and hurt his knee. But his parents didn't allow him to play with her or any other black children. They said that they were dirty and dangerous.

Of course Linda's parents thought it was awful that Linda had such a long and dangerous way to get to her school. Especially her father, Oliver Brown - who was a calm and clever man - wanted to do something about it. He tried to enroll<sup>4</sup> her at the Sumner Elementary School, but the head of<sup>5</sup> the school didn't allow it. Oliver didn't give up. He promised Linda and his other two children that he would try everything. So he decided to go to McKinley Burnett, the head of Topeka's branch<sup>6</sup> of the NAACP and asked for help. Other black parents joined Brown, and, in 1951, the NAACP went to court<sup>7</sup> to fight the segregation of Topeka's public schools. The case was called: “Brown v. Board of Education”. In 1954 the Supreme Court decided that school segregation was wrong. This was a big and important step for all black people in the USA. Mr Brown died seven years later of a heart attack.

Linda moved to Minnesota with her family and went to an integrated school there. Later she went to Washburn and Kansas State universities and had a family. Her younger sisters could both go to a desegregated schools!

<sup>2</sup> *third-grader* = Drittklässler

<sup>3</sup> *switchyard* = Verschiebebahnhof

<sup>4</sup> *to enroll* = anmelden

<sup>5</sup> *head of* = Leiter von

<sup>6</sup> *Branch* = Zweigstelle

<sup>7</sup> *to go to court* = vor Gericht gehen



Do you see segregation (not only racially) at school or in your free time? What do you think and do about it? If you haven't, which is very unlikely, how do you generally think about segregation? What would you do, if you saw somebody being segregated?

Write about 100 words about your experience and your opinion into your folder!