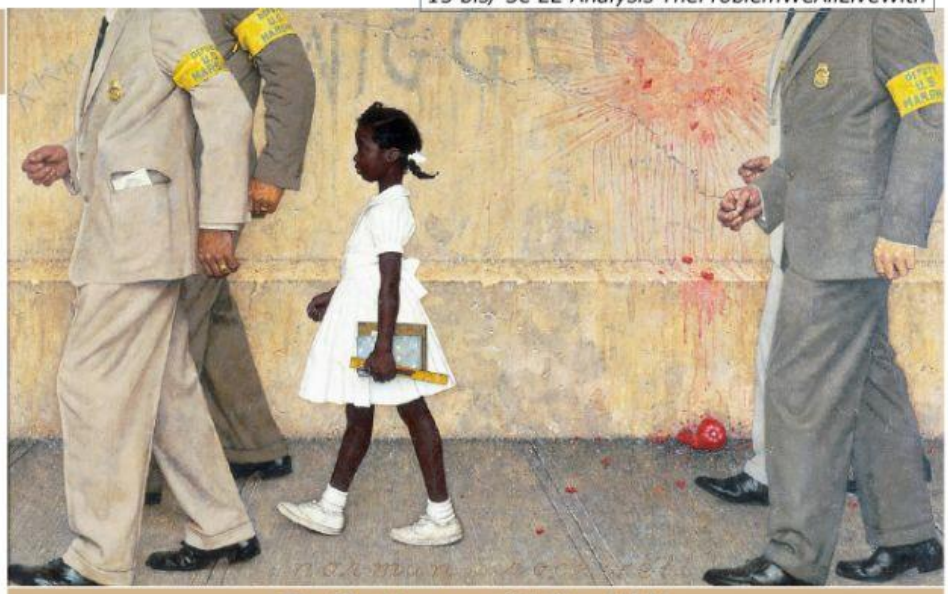
Analysis



The Problem we All Live With
by Norman Rockwell (1964)

This painting by Norman Rockwell was released in _____, at the end of the period of _____

Since the end of the _____ (1865), _____ was _____, the _____ had been emancipated and were _____, but in the _____ _____ white people _____ _____ that. They _____ to give _____ the same _____ as _____. In 1896, _____ (a **separation** between the Whites and the Blacks) became **the** _____. _____ **Americans** _____ use **separate facilities** (waiting rooms, cafés, etc). They _____ sit at the back of the bus. They _____ own a house.They _____ vote.

_____ was the _____ until _____ (when a new law, **the** _____ **Act**, put an end to **legal** _____). However, _____ **that**, African American _____ were fighting to secure their _____ : _____ was one of them, as well as _____ who _____ a pacifist _____ in _____ in _____ where he made his famous _____ about the end of discrimination, starting with : "_____".

New laws were gradually _____ from _____ when schools were _____ by the law to _____ and receive _____ students : that period was called _____. But in southern states, white people still _____ the changes.

So the scene depicted by Norman Rockwell refers to a real story : _____ was _____ years old when she became the **first** _____ to _____ **to**

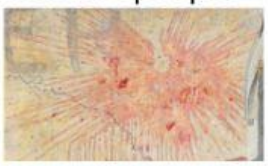
a white school in Louisiana (in New Orleans). parents were **so** **that** Ruby be **escorted** to school by US in order to her. were organized and were waiting for her in front of the school. They **insulted and attacked** her, and they decided to

their children at home : they them to be taught with a child.

The teachers from the school to teach her too, and a teacher had to be sent from (in Massachusetts, a northern state). Her name was Mrs , and Ruby was alone with her for

Norman Rockwell to tell that **story** in his because he wanted to the **and the violence** it inspired. That is probably why he decided to Ruby as a very fragile little girl, in a white dress (= *UK ; US = symbolizing*) her and . It is reinforced by **the** **tomato** on the wall (**red** for the of all those who lost their lives in that **for the Civil Rights**), the violence of the ('NIGGER') and the **threat** (= *menace*) of the inscription (the Ku Klux Klan being a **white** **organization** that killed (lynched) a lot of African Americans for no reason).

He **entitled** his 'The Problem We live With' to help American people to understand that **discrimination wasn't just a** **problem**, nor the problem of only : some elements in the painting remind us of **the American** such



as on Ruby's blue book or the shape of the smashed tomato ressembling an , **the** **of the American** .

Norman Rockwell's message is that **legal** was unfair and **contrary to the** **motto** ('E pluribus unum' = 'One out of many' → **Unity** is central). It was *smashing* the **of the nation** and Rockwell meant that everyone had a role to play to make it whole again. Everyone had to demand that **should be** **against all forms of** **in the USA**.