

City of Gaithersburg African American History Month Essay Contest 2016

Ruby Bridges

Samantha Halling

5th Grade, Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

Ruby Bridges is my inspiration because she was, and still is, a brave and extraordinary lady. She went through a lot of challenges as a little six year old girl who wanted to be treated fairly and end segregation. When the new law passed and segregation ended, Ruby tested for a very good integrated school and got in. She was one of the first African Americans to go to an integrated school. Ruby Bridges inspired me because she tried so hard to get into a good white school and to be treated fairly to help herself and other African Americans. Ruby was brave by not giving up even when some supporters of segregation protested the new law outside the school. Ruby didn't give up. She didn't accept being treated unfairly just because of the color of her skin. She was brave to use the new law and have a chance at a better education and life. Ruby taught me to be brave and to try things no matter how challenging they might seem; don't ever give up! She inspired me to fight against injustice and to stand up for what you believe in no matter what other people say about you. Ruby Bridges is my inspiration from when she was little to who she is now, an extraordinary role model.

George Washington Carver

Natalie Webb

5th Grade, Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

George Washington Carver inspires me because he was a scientist and created many different uses for the plants which showed me there can be many different uses for everything. Moses Carver, George's master (now dad), taught him how to read and write because no school would let them join. While George was being taught how to read and write he was very interested in plants known as the study of botany. When he went to college, he was the first African American student to attend Iowa State College. George was the first African American to go to that college, that shows me that anything can be achieved when you try your best and work hard. When George was at Iowa State College he got his bachelors and masters degree. So his choices made him believe that hard work really does pay off. While he was working at the college, George taught plant biology, which I would like to study since I really like plants and experimenting with them. After he finished working at the college, George started to find different uses to plants, for example peanuts, sweet potatoes, and pecans. I really hope someday I will be great scientist just like George W. Carver. In the end, George did end up finding many uses to each of these plants and so much more. So, I chose George Washington Carver because he grew up differently than many others and still became such an amazing person. My heart was moved because he was such a fragile child who grew up to be an outstanding, smart, and amazing scientist which I aspire to be.

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Fatima Borders

Nona Broussard-Afflalo

5th Grade, Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

She may not be famous, but I still love my cousin and she is an inspiration. Her name is Fatima Borders, I love her very much. To other people her job might not be that important-----Fatima is a bus driver. I look up to her because she helps people get where they need to be on time. Fatima's job is very important because if she didn't drive the bus it would be harder for people to get around if they didn't have a car. She also cares a lot about others even though she can be strict sometimes. Fatima reminds me of Rosa Parks, even though she doesn't ride the bus, but drives it. I imagine that she kind of does ride the bus at the same time as driving it. She refuses to let go of the wheel like Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for anybody. Fatima also makes me laugh. She's kind, funny, thoughtful, and full of cheer. We don't see her that often, but when she does come she always makes us smile!

If Fatima wasn't my cousin, I wouldn't have as much fun in life, or that much of even a little experience with baby snakes, or even get to know her fun fiance, Carlos. I also know that Fatima is 100% honest, 100% African American, and tries her best at her job ENDLESSLY! Fatima is a loving, caring, and great person. Fatima means absolutely everything to me, and my whole family.