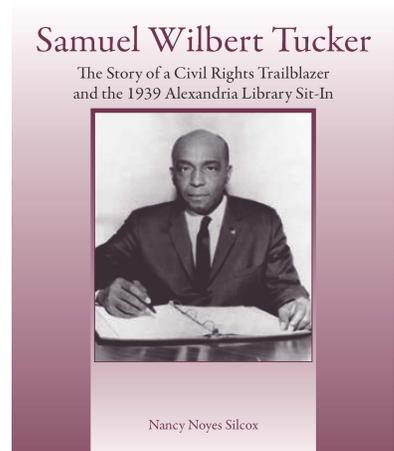


Desegregation in Virginia

Samuel Wilbert Tucker
The Story of a Civil Rights Trailblazer and the 1939
Alexandria Library Sit-In

Discussion Questions and Topics

These questions and topics are suggestions that could be modified for younger readers.



1. People are often famous for doing something first, or doing something really important that helped a lot of people. What is Samuel Wilbert Tucker remembered for doing?
2. Let's talk about the sit-in at the Alexandria Library. Who were the protestors and what were they protesting? Why was the sit-in peaceful? Why wasn't Samuel Tucker one of the protestors? What was his role? What happened as a result of the sit-in? How did Tucker feel about the Robinson Library that was built so soon after the sit-in? What did Tucker want the sit-in to accomplish?
3. The protestors were young men between the ages of 18 and 22. Eleven were in on the planning, but why did only five show up the morning of the sit-in? What would you have done and why?
4. Samuel Tucker worked hard to desegregate public schools. Why did he believe separate schools were wrong?
5. In 1954, when the Supreme Court decided in *Brown v Board of Education* that separate schools were unconstitutional, why weren't schools desegregated immediately? Why did some people oppose desegregation?
6. What happened that directed school boards to desegregate public schools immediately?

7. What experiences did Samuel Tucker have growing up during segregation that helped him decide to be a civil rights lawyer and fight for fair treatment and equal opportunities for everyone?
8. Today everyone can use the public library and everyone can get a free education in a public school, but sometimes even today people are not treated fairly and do not always have equal opportunities. What is discrimination and what are some examples of it today?
9. Have you experienced discrimination or do you know people who experienced discrimination?
10. What kind of a person was Samuel Wilber Tucker? What skills made him an effective lawyer? What character traits do you admire?
11. How are you similar to Samuel Wilbert Tucker? How are you different?
12. How are your experiences similar to or different from what Samuel Wilbert Tucker experienced?
13. How is Samuel Wilbert Tucker's story similar to or different from the stories of other famous people who fought for civil rights.
14. Samuel Wilbert Tucker effectively fought for civil rights, fair treatment and equal opportunities for everyone. He made a difference in his time. What did you learn from his life and work that could help you make a difference in your school, your community or your world?

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