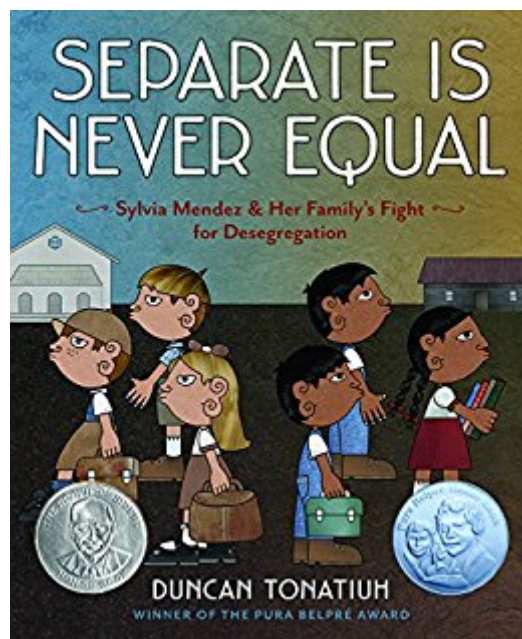


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# Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez And Her Family's Fight For Desegregation (Jane Addams Award Book (Awards))



## Synopsis

Duncan Tonatiuh's first book, *Dear Primo*, won the 2011 Pura Belpré Honor for Illustration, and Diego Rivera won the 2012 Pura Belpré Illustration Award. Tonatiuh lives in Mexico. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Prior to reading this book, I didn't know that school desegregation started with Mexican-American children. This book tells the story of an important and not well known part of American history. Children will relate to Sylvia Mendez's feelings. I particularly appreciated that the book showed that her parents had to work hard to secure justice for her, and that they didn't give up. Cleverly illustrated. This is a good book for an adult and child to read together and discuss.

Wonderful book! Many of us are really not aware of the plight of the Mexican pioneers who fought for desegregation! It is part of our history, told with the honesty of the writer who portrays the emotions and reality of its characters. It is enhanced through beautiful illustrations...that make this story compelling-- both for young readers as well as adults. It allows us to look into the window in the life

of a Mexican family and of their determination to bring us the singular opportunity to enjoy the equality of human rights, within the context of our singular culture. I highly recommend you have a copy of this book in your library!

Every school should have this book and its lessons should be taught in elementary schools and at home. When my attention was drawn to this book and the fact that the desegregation fight began with the Latino community I had to buy this book. I am a lawyer and was a child during the civil rights fight yet I was unaware that the first desegregation victory was not *Brown vs. Board of Education*. A third grader could read this book him/herself. It is appropriate to read to second graders at the same time Black History Month is celebrated. It describes how persistent one has to be to attain justice, but that other good citizens will help you, and that justice (sometimes--my edit) will prevail. The artwork is Latino style and the text is straightforward. I am buying 2 copies -- one for each of my upcoming third grade teachers--in the hopes they will cover this in class. Though we live in a community with a substantial Guatemalan population, the vocal parents have succeeded in excluding Latino-American history from the agenda. I am Caucasian and my children are from Guatemala. And the more things change the more they stay the same.

It is important that we find ways to pass on to generations current and next the importance of inclusion for all and what those in our past have endured in the quest for equal rights for all. This book and story nails it. Thank you, Duncan Tonatiuh, for your accepting and exceeding the challenge to tell.

I can't say enough about this book. It's amazing and a great book for ANY grade level. And I mean any. The message is important, relevant (about racial discrimination and equal access to education), but it's also a story that is rarely included in history texts. The illustrations are different from what you'd see on typical storybooks, but I have used this in multiple classrooms (I have worked as a teacher in 3-5th grade) and they can be used to encourage even more discussion. Due to the important subject matter and the accessible language used by the author, I could see this book being used for grades K-12 for sure.

This is such an important book. What separate and unequal looks and feels like to kids is clear, stark and heartfelt. The reader will clearly understand why this lawsuit was necessary and empathize with the kids and the families who took action in 1947, seven years before *Brown v.*

Board of Education. Kids of all ages should read this book, even those who are above the grade level specified, for insight into the civil rights struggle for people of color. There are lots of discussion opportunities here. There is nothing like this on the market. Bravo!

Excellent book to use when teaching kids about segregation and fighting for equality and civil liberties. My 7-year-old really likes it.

Adding this to my in-house personal library. After reading up on the case and the history involved there, it's a great addition to own.

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