Day One

Brown v. Board: A Close Case

Part 1: Silent read

Brown v. Board of Education ended segregation in schools. Read silently.

Brown v. Board of Education ended segregation in schools. The case established that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Few people know that the case almost went the other way.

Brown v. Board was a legal case brought by several African American families. Their children were all educated in segregated classrooms. They argued that America's "separate but equal" policy must be overturned. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, the highest court in the country.

In 1953, the nine Supreme Court justices heard the case. Four justices were planning to vote in favor of desegregation, but they needed five votes. The other five justices were probably leaning towards keeping segregation. Chief Justice Fred Vinson was among these five.

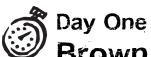
Unexpectedly, in September 1953, Chief Justice Vinson died of a heart attack. Earl Warren became the new Supreme Court justice. Warren believed that the U.S. should move towards ending segregated education. With Warren replacing Vinson, they had the votes they needed!

Warren was not satisfied, however. Many people, including Warren, worried about potential violence after the case. Many White people in the South would be angry about desegregating schools. Warren worried that a split 5-4 vote would undercut the decision, validating these angry people. This could increase rioting and violence.

So, Warren convinced every one of his fellow justices to support him. The Supreme Court voted unanimously to end the "separate but equal" policy. Though fully desegregating schools would take decades, this was a landmark decision.

Source: "Looking Back at the Brown v. Board Decision," *Constitution Daily*, November 23, 2015.

Passage 3 p. 15



// one minute

Brown v. Board: A Close Case

Part 2: First timed read we

Brown v. Board of Education ended segregation in schools. The case established that, "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Few people know that the case almost went the other way. Brown v. Board was a legal case brought by several African American families. Their children 45 were all educated in segregated classrooms. They argued that America's "separate but equal" 58 policy must be overturned. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, the highest 75 79 court in the country. 95 In 1953, the nine Supreme Court justices heard the case. Four justices were planning to vote in favor of desegregation, but they needed five votes. The other five justices were probably 110 leaning towards keeping segregation. Chief Justice Fred Vinson was among these five. 122 Unexpectedly, in September 1953, Chief Justice Vinson died of a heart attack. Earl Warren 136 became the new Supreme Court justice. Warren believed that the U.S. should move towards 150 ending segregated education. With Warren replacing Vinson, they had the votes they needed! 163 Warren was not satisfied, however. Many people, including Warren, worried about potential 175 violence after the case. Many White people in the South would be angry about desegregating 190 204 schools. Warren worried that a split 5-4 vote would undercut the decision, validating these angry people. This could increase rioting and violence. 212 So, Warren convinced every one of his fellow justices to support him. The Supreme Court 227 voted unanimously to end the "separate but equal" policy. Though fully desegregating 239 schools would take decades, this was a landmark decision. 248 Part 3: Comprehension and discussion Why did Justice Earl Warren want the vote to be unanimous? What happened in September 1953?

Passage 3 p. 16

Day One

Brown v. Board: A Close Case

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- → Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- → Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Brown v. Board of Education / ended segregation in schools. // The case established / that "separate educational facilities / are inherently unequal." // Few people know / that the case almost went the other way. //

Brown v. Board was a legal case / brought by several African American families. // Their children were all educated / in segregated classrooms. // They argued that America's "separate but equal" policy / must be overturned. // The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court, / the highest court in the country. //

In 1953, / the nine Supreme Court justices heard the case. // Four justices were planning to vote / in favor of desegregation, / but they needed five votes. // The other five justices / were probably leaning towards keeping segregation. // Chief Justice Fred Vinson was among these five. //

Unexpectedly, / in September 1953, / Chief Justice Vinson died of a heart attack. // Earl Warren became the new Supreme Court justice. // Warren believed / that the U.S. should move towards ending segregated education. // With Warren replacing Vinson, / they had the votes they needed! //

Warren was not satisfied, / however. // Many people, / including Warren, / worried about potential violence / after the case. // Many White people in the South / would be angry about desegregating schools. // Warren worried / that a split 5-4 vote / would undercut the decision, / validating these angry people. // This could increase rioting and violence. //

So Warren convinced / every one of his fellow justices to support him. // The Supreme Court voted unanimously / to end the "separate but equal" policy. // Though fully desegregating schools would take decades, / this was a landmark decision. //

☐ I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.

Passage 3 p. 17