

Name:

Day One

Thurgood Marshall: From Debater to Judge

Part 1: Silent read

→ Thurgood Marshall was a famous judge. Read silently.

In 1954, Thurgood Marshall won a major case. He was a lawyer on a case called *Brown v. Board of Education*. Marshall argued that separate schools for Black children violated their rights. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in his favor. The judges said that the idea of “separate but equal” has no place in education.

This was not Thurgood Marshall’s only Supreme Court case. Marshall fought for civil rights throughout his career as a lawyer. He argued 32 Supreme Court cases and won 29 of them! In fact, Marshall argued more cases in the Supreme Court than any other person.

Thurgood Marshall did not always plan to be a lawyer. He considered becoming a dentist, like his older brother. However, his family had always loved to debate. They debated after dinner about what they read in the news. Marshall’s father even took him to watch court cases. Then they would debate about what they heard. Some people think this helped prepare Marshall to be a successful lawyer.

Thurgood Marshall was not just an important lawyer, though. President Kennedy appointed Marshall to be a federal judge. Then, in 1967, President Johnson made Thurgood Marshall a Supreme Court Justice. The Supreme Court Justices are the nine most important judges in the country. Marshall was the first African American to hold this position. As a Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall continued to support equal rights for all.



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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did Thurgood Marshall’s family help prepare him to be a lawyer?

What other career did Thurgood Marshall consider?

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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.

In 1954, / Thurgood Marshall won a major case. // He was a lawyer on a case / called Brown v. Board of Education. // Marshall argued that separate schools for Black children / violated their rights. // On May 17, / 1954, / the Supreme Court ruled in his favor. // The judges said / that the idea of “separate but equal” / has no place in education. //

This was not Thurgood Marshall’s only Supreme Court case. // Marshall fought for civil rights / throughout his career as a lawyer. // He argued 32 Supreme Court cases / and won 29 of them! // In fact, / Marshall argued more cases in the Supreme Court / than any other person. //

Thurgood Marshall did not always plan to be a lawyer. // He considered becoming a dentist, / like his older brother. // However, / his family had always loved to debate. // They debated after dinner / about what they read in the news. // Marshall’s father even took him / to watch court cases. // Then they would debate / about what they heard. // Some people think / this helped prepare Marshall / to be a successful lawyer. //

Thurgood Marshall was not just an important lawyer, / though. // President Kennedy appointed Marshall / to be a federal judge. // Then, / in 1967, / President Johnson made Thurgood Marshall / a Supreme Court Justice. // The Supreme Court Justices / are the nine most important judges / in the country. // Marshall was the first African American / to hold this position. // As a Supreme Court Justice, / Thurgood Marshall continued to support equal rights for all. //

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