Introduction

This book is a compilation of essays written by thirty-one sixth-grade students of the Ellen B. Faison-Sadler School located in the Portsmouth section of Boston. The essays contain the personal experiences of 16.5. Washington students who participated in Phase 1 of the school's desegregation during the 1969-70 school year.

The undertaking took from late January when school desegregation as to start until the second week of April and included the following projects: book, student led by the school of this project, written the required number of book reports, completed and submitted their research paper, had not covered the project and the students were prevalent for their grade level. Boston, reading not writing and not acceptable foreign to them as critic of Boston's Public Schools would quickly vanish.

In short what time, Boston, Inc. of 304, Connecticut, initiated a comprehensive reading program in their third grade middle school, one of which was the Ellen B. Faison. The addition to the previously existing reading teachers in varied ways of meeting the needs of some students, this program included a book that approach to language speech development. This was in cooperation with the Boston, Inc. that we practiced this book.

Recently, anything written within the subject we are not going to be documented here. Fortunately enough, the children's home reveals a wide variety of opinions based upon their personal experiences during this school year. These essays are shared reflections about the effect of reading experiences with others.

For those of you who wish to write for some encouraging psychology, sociological, or philosophical reasonings, there are six. But in many ways to note that one year ago this program and the students continued to improve. While many of their discussions and predictions were not fulfilled by the writing project, they were more-than-half asked evaluations by those most closely involved by the student. The 30.5.

I would like to express my congratulations to the Ellen B. Faison-Sadler School and to you. Many hard work for their career work. Not much of all it is worth to appreciate thanks to those who are most important the members of the.

Boys' School

Kent, 1973

Boston
I didn't think busing was very fair. I think everybody should be able
to go to whatever school they want to. The busing is too much trouble and
money. Why do they have busing? They should have left everything alone.

I thought integration would be terrible because all the whites and
blacks would always be fighting. And all the teachers would always be
breaking up fights and I wouldn't learn anything and I'd get hurt in a
fight or riot. I was scared because I thought I wouldn't know anyone in
the room.

This September was mixed up. Everyone taking a bus and nobody know
where they were supposed to go. I hardly know anyone. In a couple of
weeks I knew some of the kids, and the school and the teachers. Everyday
I have to take a bus and it's sort of fun. In December we had a Christmas
party, it was fun, we watched movies then we listened to music. Some of
the kids were dancing. The whole day was fun. Then came February vaca-
tion. I had lots of fun in the snow, sledding and ice skating. After
vacation we went roller skating, it was fun holding hands and going around
around the rink. It was fun until a girl broke her arm but we still had
lots of fun. Then we went to Hake Reservation in April. We split up into
groups, observed animals and how they lived. In March we started to go on
zoo trips. Some of them were fun, some of them were boring. Pretty soon
we are going to the Prudential. I think it will be fun. Some parts of
this year were fun, but some things weren't. Most of the trips were real
fun. But I think some were real boring.

Next year I'm looking forward to going to Girls' Latin. But I'm not
certain if I passed the test or not. I hope that whatever school I go to
I'll make new friends. I think next year will be better because some of
the kids will be used to an integrated school. I'm really looking forward
to being in a nice school with nice kids and teachers.
An essay by
Cynthia Martin

I never thought about being bused because I had heard that I was going to the O.W. Holmes or to the Trotter School. If I were to be bused, I might not know what to do. I would be scared. I would not know where to go or what to do, or what neighborhood I would be in. I would not know anything.

Integration is a good and a bad thing. It is good because the blacks and the whites can get to know each other and their ways. It is bad because they think they can't get along.

This year was the best year of my life. I met lots of new friends both black and white. In December we had a Christmas party for the whole cluster. We put all the desks in the hallway to have more room. Then we put our money together to buy tonic, potato chips, and popcorn. It was lots of fun eating and watching movies. I really had fun roller skating. We brought things to eat and there were games to play while we were there.

In April we went to the Hale Reservation. We found a real bird's nest and we also saw some baby birds. We climbed rocks and had a fun time. Then a couple of weeks later we saw some more movies and ate leftover popcorn from my birthday party. On May 20th we are going to the Prudential Center, free!! On May 21st we won't have much work to do and then on the 23rd we're going roller skating again. That's going to be a fun week.

I'm looking forward to being going into the 7th grade next year. I'm looking forward to being either at the Latin School or here. It really doesn't matter to me. I do want to be in an integrated school again. I had the best time of my life this year, but the way things are going now, nobody really knows where they're going next year.

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An essay by
Gloria Nelson

Before I received my notice that told me I was going to the Holmes School, I thought I was going to be bused. I thought that nothing would happen. One day on the way I heard about all of the being stoned. I really got scared, and I didn’t want to be bused. Then I got my notice that told me I was going to the Holmes. I was relieved, because the Holmes School was right around the corner from my house.

When I heard I was going to an integrated school I felt better because I thought it would be nice to have some white friends because some of the black people thought they were the best in the land.

This year is almost over, but it has been a very good year for me because of the teacher I had this year, Mr. Nul kern. He is a very good teacher. He yells a lot but if he didn’t the kids wouldn’t listen to him. He has taught me about being responsible for my own things and a lot of other things I didn’t know. He told me how it would be next year. That is why he is trying to get me to form good study habits. He said that if there was going to be a 7th grade in the Latin School, we would have homework every day and from every class we went to. We didn’t really know if there was going to be a 7th grade in the Latin School til Saturday, May 10 at 6:00 in the evening. So he is telling us to study because those teachers won’t be reminding us about our homework. If we don’t do it next year we will get an “F” on our report cards.

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but this year has been a very rewarding year. We are going on trips, having parties, and as long as we do our work, Mr. Nulkern will take us places. But if we give him a hard time, he will make us work until we learn what we have to learn. I can’t say I blame him.

As for next year, I am looking forward to coming to the Holmes School for the 7th grade, because I like this school, and I think it has very good teachers.

My mother said once that we’re going to move. She said she was tired of living in that apartment house. She said she was going to buy a house. But then the people put the price higher, and it wasn’t worth it, so we didn’t move again.

I am glad she didn’t because then I would probably be bused to school, and I would rather walk around the corner to school than to catch a bus and ride to school.

Next year I am looking forward to coming to the Holmes and I hope to have Mr. Nulkern as a teacher because I doubt that I passed the Latin test. That test was kind of hard, for me at least. So next year I think I’ll be coming to the Holmes School.
When I wanted to go down Bury light, a few people were there. I was all of a sudden, I thought then if I went I wasn’t going to understand. The reason was that I wanted to stay in my own neighborhood. They all my friends would go to our neighborhood. All of my friends and neighbors thought about that. I thought then that my friends would have free rides, and there would be no way to get home. So I would never stay in my own neighborhood.

You know about integrated schooling. I thought it would be a good idea because schools would be black or white. Now, most schools in Boston were integrated and the black and white people could get together and be friends. You see black and white people would have free rides from your integrated schools, there would be more relationships. With a lot of black and white people don’t get along, but I don’t see any need, everybody was safe equal.

The first time I saw the classroom, I was different black and white people. The room was very quiet; I didn’t think there were any friends. A lot of people looked tough and not very friendly. I only knew a few friends from the last year. My teacher was very nice to all the kids. He tried to make everyone be happy. We had a few weeks later I made a lot of friends like this how now.

So, later on one of my best friends, because of favorite classroom this year. Later just about all the kids were my friends.

You know with all my counterparts, we never went a a foot patrol. Each day on Monday, we met in the school for the last few weeks. We never went out for a day. In favorite subject in music, then, Spanish, etc. The subject was all that bad, but you don’t have to worry very much.

I met friends with all these people when I didn’t know who I was. I’ve been to my integrated classroom. I’ve been to my Mr. Naylor’s room because we don’t write parliament papers. I went to my happy time but we probably not much. Other classes don’t do nobody as we because they don’t know how to be nice. We never how to be nice here new, we’ll get a better education.

One of the most memorable times in school when we were elected to the Student Council. It was a majority council of the black and white students. There are four kids from each race, which talks over problems faced by the two races.

After one day of the year we didn’t have more fun. Then in February, we went to Beadles’ day, which was harvest. We had a lot of fun. When we got there it looked like a dream, but inside it was real good. The festival weighed a ton. At the end of the day my feet were really feeling with blisters.

The next week we started our new trip. Every Thursday we go to the Franklin Park Zoo, but twice we will go to the Boston Zoo. On the bus we broke into four groups, the name of my group is Old Boston. Our leader is me, Hannah from Boston, the leader from the school that goes with me. The trips are part of the wildlife educational program.

I’m so happy to be a part of this group because of the love and support. We had a lot of fun. If there was a lot of fun.

During the month of May, everyone was thinking about going on spring break. Only 50 days in our cluster were over, or we would have on much fun or less than.

I really had fun for this year. I hope to have more good things for the old days. I hope the teaching plan would stay for our class, but I think I would have more fun for my next neighborhood.

For this summer I am hoping to do a summer camp for one week on the Boy Scouts. For the rest of the summer, I hope to have fun, because I have only one more year to take this trip, so I thought it would be very well. I said if I passed I would go there. So I will take the test I thought I would pass. Then I heard that there might be a little school for seventh and eighth graders. If that were, I would want to stay at the Holmes because I know that the teachers and the school and used to subjects and period. And then I heard that they have signed the others, I don’t know if I will go because that is all the homework and next of my friends or not going. So I would really want to stay at the Holmes or go to my former school so I would be with my best friend.

Who really wants me to go to the same school with him,
When I heard about integration, I didn't give it one thought. I still don't. I didn't know what it meant so I was mad when I found out I was being bused. I didn't want to be bused to this school. I just wanted to walk to the Woodrow Wilson School where to get the bus so I was afraid. I didn't know where to get the bus so I was afraid. I didn't want to go.

On the first day of school I was afraid. Because when I got there I saw a lot of policemen standing around. I thought there would be a lot of riots and fights there. I wanted to walk home.

I didn't think anyone would get along with each other. As the year went on, everyone began to go their own way. The blacks stayed with the blacks and the whites stayed with the whites and nobody bothered with each other. Later in the year, everyone became friends with each other.

We go on a lot of trips, when we went roller skating it was fun. Each time someone fell, someone else would say "ha ha, you fell," or something like that. When we went to Hale Reservation, the group I was in stayed near the water, we kept laughing and kidding around and everyone kept pushing each other into the water. We all had a good time there.

Now we're going roller skating again on May 23, and I can't wait; we're going to have a blast. I sure did have a lot of fun this year. I think this year went by so fast, this was really a good year for me.

I'm looking forward to going to this school and into the seventh grade. I hope to see all my friends next year. I want to go into the seventh grade because it's on the seventh grade level that you learn high school work.
I found out that I had to come to this school. I was really mad because everybody else was going to the looney. I was also very scared because everybody else was always having trouble. Then, finally, the principal let me into the room. I found out that we went to room 10 where my friend was. Then I found out that there were a lot of other nice kids there, and there were a lot of jerks, too. After I got used to that room, I got transferred to room 19. I didn't know anybody except and . I didn't really like the kids in this room, because most of them picked on me.

I thought integration would be awful because blacks and whites didn't really mix with each other. I thought there would be riots and everybody would get hurt. I was kind of scared of coming to this school because it had a bad reputation. There were always kids getting hurt in fights. I thought all of the teachers would be black, so I got even more scared. I was so scared when my friends told me how bad this school was. This school isn't so bad after all. I think the parents should be blamed for all the fights. After all, if they didn't make such a fuss about it, the kids wouldn't have fought in the first place.

The day before Christmas we had a huge party. It was in three rooms. Mr. Halsey was the food room; Mr. Mulkern's room was the game room; and Mrs. Barros's classroom was the music room. It was really fun. There was a whole bunch of cake, candy, and popcorn. Everybody had fun.

The day our cluster went roller skating everybody had fun. The teachers roller skated for a little while. Mrs. Barros skated pretty well until she fell and did a split all the way down. However, she had just as much fun as everyone else. Mr. Mulkern said we're going again and I'm glad.

When our class got picked to go to the zoo every Thursday I was so happy because I love animals. Nobody could wait to go. Finally, the day came to go. Everybody was excited. It was such fun! We learned what certain animals eat and all about their natural habitats.

The day all the sixth-graders heard an African band I was so silly. They were beating on drums, blowing on whistles and horns, and dancing. They were so funny the way they made their sudden noises.

When our cluster went to Half institute we learned a lot. We learned how animals get their food and where they get it. In other words, we learned all about nature. It was fun.

Next year, I'm looking forward to coming to this school with all my friends. Maybe this school is broken down, but it has memories, lots of memories. If I come here next year, we can look back on those memories and laugh about them. We can remember our teachers, Mr. Mulkern, Mrs. Barros, and Mr. Bolez. We can remember the fun we had with them. I really think it would be nice to come to a school with nice memories. Don't you?
An essay by

I always knew that I wasn't going to be bused, because I live close to this school. And I knew I was going to the Holmes School because it said so in my letter. I didn't care about going to an integrated school because as long as nobody bothers me I'm happy.

The first impressions I had of my classmates was that they were going to be fun, and they are. The most fun time in school is when we go down to the gym and play volleyball. The most important thing I learned this year is math. The happiest time in school this year was when we went roller skating.

My first impressions of math was that I knew I was not going to pass because math looked too hard. But reading is easy because I know how to read.

This year was sort of a good year. I didn't have any bad fights. If I'm bused next year I hope I don't get into any fights. Well, I didn't have any fights this year and I learned math and sewing. The rest of the year just went by.

Next year I hope I go to a school that is out of Boston. This is because if I go to a school out of Boston I will have to take a bus. And sometimes I will miss the bus and I won't have to go to school. Some schools out of Boston don't have big fights. I don't want to be caught in any big fights.
When I heard that there was going to be busing, I was afraid of being bused to some place entirely new. I never could really understand why ever would be the way it was in the old days when the blacks had to sit in the back of the bus. I didn't have too many thoughts about integration, because I went to an integrated school last year. But I thought there would be a lot of trouble.

I think integration turned out better than everyone expected. Now people are wondering why did I keep my child out of school half the year.

I thought I would be in a classroom with people I'd never seen before. Maybe no one would like me. I met a lot of people but [redacted] and [redacted] are my closest friends in school.

I didn't know how it would be to change classes every 45 minutes. It was a frightening experience, because I might forget what class I was supposed to be in.

The most memorable times I remember were when we went roller skating and went to Hales Reservation which was also a lot of fun. In the beginning of the year I was elected to the student council. In December we had a movie and a party, everyone enjoyed themselves. January was just like any regular school month. In February we went roller skating. A few people got hurt but it was fun. In March we were invited to visit the zoo on Thursdays for a zoological program. April was just like a regular school month, except when we had a movie. In May we were invited to the Prudential Building. We also are going roller skating May 23. I got in a little trouble here and there, but it really didn't affect my learning.

I learned a lot this year, but the most important thing was that you can't judge people by their outer covering.

I don't expect too much next year. I don't think there will be too much trouble. I think I will be taking the regular seventh grade subjects. I really don't expect anything great.
April 18, 1975, it wasn’t such a nice day because it was rainy and damp. On that day President Gerald Ford came to Massachusetts. There was a crowd there. The crowd lasted for two days, because it was a big event. For the next day was Patriots’ Day, April 19, 1975, he attended Mass at the Old North Church in Boston’s Historical North End. Nelson Rockefeller became his vice-president of the United States. Gerald Ford had slept overnight at the Colorado Hotel.

When I was taking the Latin test I thought it would be hard, but when I got there and when I started, it wasn’t so hard. But if I passed it, I don’t want to go because I took the test to see what a real test was really like; because I wanted to be ready for a real test just in case I had one next year in the 7th grade. But I might not be going to a public school next year because my father and mother don’t like the idea of being and I’m not too crazy about it either. But nothing is really bad about it.

Next year I hope I can do better in class because I didn’t do too well this year in major subjects, but I did do a good couple of times. I always tried my hardest to do school work and I’m going to try extra hard next year. I’m going to take Spanish again so I can learn more of it because when I grow up I plan to go to New Mexico.
I liked the 5th grade because we only had one teacher. We have a lot of teachers in the sixth grade. I feel good about integration because kids of different races are able to go to the same school. For white people to go to a white school and black people to go to a black school doesn't seem right. That is why most schools have both.

The best things that happened to me this year were when we went to the zoo, and on other trips, and when we had parties. The bad things were when Mr. D. blew his whistle because it got too noisy down in the lunchroom, and when Mr. Nulkern made the girls go up and down the stairs quietly because we were making noise when we were filing. That is the good and the bad of the sixth grade.

But the school is good, and it is fun sometimes, but sometimes it is boring. The exciting things were when we had a half day or when we had one day off for a holiday. But sometimes we get a whole week off for vacation and that's exciting! The most exciting thing that happened in school was when we went to Hale Reservation. At Hale's you look at plants and trees and you study them. We took our lunch and we had a good time. I mean it was really fun. The zoo is exciting, too. You get to touch some of the animals and you learn about all different kinds of animals. But some of them stink. Sometimes we see different kinds of birds like parrots. We also went rollerskating. It is exciting when all the kids in my room go roller skating, but when you fall down, it hurts. Some people can fall and hurt their arm or break their leg. When you break your arm or leg it isn't exciting. We go outside to play ball and that is fun. Gym is the most fun. It is fun when we don't get too much homework. We will have an exciting time when we go on a trip to the Prudential Center.

I am looking forward to going to this school next year for the seventh grade. I hope there is not as much busing next year. I hope some of my friends go to the same school as I do next year. I hope this school is as good next year as it was this year. And I hope the recess is a little bit longer next year, and I hope this school will be integrated again. And I don't care if I get bused as long as I am happy in school.
I really didn't like the idea of getting bused. I really didn't want to go to this school. I waited about two years to go to the Woodrow Wilson because all my friends were going there. The first couple of days my mother drove us up, what I mean by us is my older brother and I. My mother didn't want us to walk up to Homenway Park. So she asked our bus driver to stop around the corner and he said yes. Then that was finished, and my mother was happy up until he stopped coming down near us because of the other boys and girls up at the other end of the park. Now he stops near us again. I don't take that bus in the morning, but in the afternoon. In the morning I get the Wainwright Park bus and get a bumpy ride, it is fun if you get the back seat or the second to last.

The first time I came I was in Miss Polansky's room, then I came up here with [redacted]. We sat next to each other, then [redacted] moved where I was and I moved up where she was then. [redacted] moved where I was and I moved where she was. Then [redacted] moved up near me. Our cluster went roller skating in February at the end of the month, but I didn't go because I had to get my braces. Now we go to the zoo every Thursday, once we went to the Stoneham Zoo. Then we went to Hale Reservation. It wasn't hard to make friends here. After I get out of high school I want to go to college to be an airline stewardess or a nurse, but first I have to get through the sixth grade. This school year had been fun but I thought I would get jumped, but I never did. The kids do tease you for a while but then they stop.

Next year I want to go to Latin School but I might not of made it. If I get bused again I might have to come back here. I really wouldn't want to but I might have to. Because my mother is trying to teach us to obey the law, so we do.
I felt like a puppet being moved around from place to place, being treated like a bouncing ball. When the whites were coming to the school, I felt sorry when the black kids at this school treated the whites like dirt, pulling their hair and all that. For example, if a white fights with a black, they both get suspended. I don't think that's fair, because why should they be suspended because of a fight? They can settle it themselves; their both human beings, and I'm sure they could settle it between themselves.

Integration was really nothing new to me because I had a lot of white friends before. So I was happy to have more friends because they are very good friends, and I like to have a lot of fun. I don't like fighting all the time. Surely, the only reason the kids come to school and start fighting is that their parents tell them to. Some don't want to fight, but their parents tell them to, and when one of the black or white get hurt, the white or black parent starts running crying "oh no" "oh no", when it really was all their fault.

The first day I was kind of embarrassed because I was late for class. My papers hadn't got to the secretary yet. When I got ready to come upstairs, my mother came to see my teacher. So after he started talking too loud and was very open. He told us all the rules of what once I broken them. When I got out of school my mother and she liked my teacher because he was strict. That night I watched the news. They said South Boston had a riot and a lot of blacks and whites were hurt. Then I got scared. I went to school the next day and tried to be friendly. But that day I think everyone was shook up about that riot in South Boston. All the rest of the day went quickly. At Christmas time I was happy that I finally got my ice skating rink. I was really happy the day we put it up. I got frost bite after we got it up our little dog jumped in and tore up the plastic. After Christmas we went back to regular treatment, like we were absent for years. After we got caught up with our work we had a lot of fun roller skating, going over to the zoo 11 times. We're going roller skating again in May. We're also going to the Prudential Building in May. I'm one of the 20 people who get to go Tuesday, May 20, 1975. We get a free lunch, you can't get this very often in Boston and I'm going to have a lot of fun because I have never been on a tour of the Prudential Building.

Next year I would like to be in the 7th grade in an integrated school because I got along with the kids that come on the bus. Maybe I will be coming off the bus, but either way I'll be happy. I hope I'm in the 7th grade next year. I thought the person who thought up integration was crazy at first, but now I realize he was just trying to get fair education for everyone.
I thought I was going to be bused to some far away school. I was thinking how it would be when I went to school. The whites would probably throw rocks at the kids. Also, I would not be able to go to the store unless I was with a group. I also thought that the whites would start riots, and that there would be some killing with knives.

I thought about integration. I was wondering that the school that I went to would be equally balanced. I was thinking that if there was a little fight, the whites would go complaining to the school committee, and say that the blacks are taking advantage of the whites on the opposite way.

It was the morning of the first day. I came to school and said to a friend, "this school is not as bad as I thought it would be," he said, "wait until the year gets going." I waited. The school started coming alive. The boys were trying to help set up a banquet for the school. I had a good time at the student council carnival. You could buy a nickel for a game and win fifty cents! There were times when I had fun painting the halls. There was a time when they picked our class to study animals at the zoo. There was a ferret at the zoo and the girls were so afraid of it that they started screanming. One time I went roller skating and there was a girl who broke her arm but there were some laughs when the teachers fell.

Once we went to the Hala Reservation to study nature and her habitat. And still this year is not over yet and we're going on some more trips. We had some fun times in the art room because we would be making all kinds of jokes. I had fun looking at the girls in gym because they try to stand on their heads and it looks so funny. There's probably more fun to come.

Next year I am looking forward to going to a private school out in California. The name of it is Shady Hill. It is a good school. They have a basketball team and I would like to get on it. This school sounds exciting, but the hours are long. The work there is different, but I can always adjust to it. The work will keep me very busy. And you have to be smart to pass there. After I have finished three years of school there, I will have a choice of schools that I can attend. I will pick the one named Brown's School. It is in the same district as Shady Hill, in fact, it is right in back of it. That's about all I'm looking forward to.
When I discovered I was going to the Holmes School in September I was afraid, I thought that I would get attacked to and from school before school opened. On the first day of school I found out how nice this school is, now my fears are over. Last year I went to a very nice school, it is called the Thomas J. Kenny School, on Oakland Ave., off of Adams St. It was a very integrated school. The year before that I went to an integrated school, it's called the Ellen H. Richards school. Now my little brother goes there this year, but he is not getting along very well, but when I went there I got along very well. That was in "72-73". That year I stayed out of school to go to because my mother, and I didn't want me to go to the Lee School again, so I ended up getting bused in the fourth and fifth grades.

When I came to school on the first two days I was in the class downstairs. I met new friends there, but there were only about ten children in that class. That's where I met We both were supposed to be in the Spanish Class. So we were sent upstairs to the Spanish class on the third day. I liked my new classmates in my new class. I live a couple of blocks around the corner, so I walk to school. When I first came to this school the work was very easy, but then it started getting harder, but I can keep up with most of the work. My first new friends were and Later on I began to like and know them better. I made more friends as the year went on. I didn't have any first impressions about an integrated classroom, because I was in an integrated class room last year and I enjoyed it. I had no later impressions or feelings about integration because I like it. It's well balanced in our school and the blacks don't think their boss of the blacks. The most happiest time in school was when Mr. Mulkern took us to the Bal-a-room skating rink. The most memorable time in school was when we dissected frogs. The most fun time in school is gym. The most important thing I learned is Spanish. The music teacher, Mr. Lanagan signed me up for camp. After I come from that camp my mother will probably sign me up for another summer camp, or the Y.W.C.A.

Next year I'm looking forward to coming back to the Holmes because I like it very much. It is well integrated. It has nice teachers. The school is clean, and it is very easy to make friends.