

American Literature
A Tale of Two Schools
Discussion Questions with Answers

Directions: Answer all of the following questions on a separate piece of paper:

1. Describe the economy of Westminster, Calif., in the 1940s.
2. What were the schools like at that time?
3. How did officials determine which school a child would attend?
4. How did the Mendezes respond to the school system's discrimination against their children?
5. Who was Thurgood Marshall, and what is his connection to the Mendez story?
6. Fighting segregation in the Westminster schools was a family effort for the Mendezes and their neighbors. Has your family ever "rallied" around a cause or a problem that you wanted to solve? For what issue would you be willing to make the kind of sacrifices the Mendezes made?