

American Literature
A Tale of Two Schools
Essay Questions

Directions: Each group member must choose a different one of the following writing assignments concerned with issues raised in Chapter 8: *A Tale of Two Schools*

1. Explore your family's memories of segregation days. Do your parents or grandparents, aunts or uncles recall a time when public facilities were segregated by race or ethnicity? Interview them and use your findings to write an essay. Where and when did the segregation occur? What groups and facilities were affected? How did your family member feel about the segregation? How has the situation changed? (Two students may choose this topic)
2. Imagine that you are a friend and neighbor of the Mendez family. Write a petition to the school board expressing your desire for better schools and equal opportunity for your children.
3. Re-read the document "An Education in Citizenship." Write your own *amicus curiae* ("friend of the court") brief to the judge hearing the Mendez case.
4. You are one of the Mendez children. Write a letter to your cousin in Mexico expressing your hopes and dreams as you enter your new school.