

STUDENT WORKSHEET

Film Analysis Questions:

1. How would you feel about yourself as you watched your classmates leave you behind?
2. How would you feel about the teacher and your fellow classmates?
3. How would you feel about the Boblo Boat company?

Discussion questions:

1. There were racial conflicts in Detroit in the 1940s in recreational places, including a major [race riot](#) on [Belle Isle](#) in 1943. During that riot, 34 people died, 25 of whom were African American. Sarah Ray must have been aware of this in 1945, and aware that the Boblo Boat was closed to blacks, except on specific days. Why do you think that she boarded the boat anyway?
2. Ray's case caught the attention of the NAACP, and the famous lawyer Thurgood Marshall filed a brief in her defense before the U.S. Supreme Court. But there is no evidence that she was part of an organized effort to end discrimination on the Boblo Boat, or that she'd had a premeditated plan to cause "[good trouble](#)" on the Boblo Boat. What did she risk by acting spontaneously as an individual?

3. Sarah was interviewed in 2006 when she was 88 years old. She told her interviewer that she never set foot on the Boblo Boat again, even after her 1948 Supreme Court win. In fact, over the course of her life, she rarely spoke about her involvement with the case. Why do you think she rarely spoke about her role in history?

4. Ray's case became part of the test cases that the NAACP used in their strategy to end legal segregation in the United States. Almost a decade after Sarah's case, the Supreme Court struck down school segregation with the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision. But remnants of discrimination in areas of leisure remain today. Can you think of ways "certain people" are still barred from parks, pools, resorts, or other areas of leisure?

5. Let's look at the "2021 Word of the Year" selected by Dictionary.com: **allyship**. What is [allyship](#)?

6. Sarah Ray's classmates and her teacher should have been her natural allies. Yet, in the moment that Sarah was ousted from the Boblo Boat, they did nothing. What are some of the reasons that Sarah's teacher and classmates failed to be an ally?

7. Think about the role that young allies recently have played in social movements, including [Black Lives Matter](#), [anti-school violence](#), [LGBTQ+ rights](#), and [climate change](#). Why are allies important to creating lasting change?