

Name _____

Date _____



Loving v. Virginia

It was the summer of 1958, late night,
Richard and Mildred Loving were awoken out of a fright.
Arrested by their local sheriff at the time
Because interracial marriage, back then, was a crime.
Not only in Virginia, more than 20 other states
Disapproved of a union between two different races.
Richard was White. Mildred was Native American and Black.
That meant they had to scrap their relationship or just
Leave everything they knew and go to Washington, DC, where it was legal if you loved
Someone different from your race, to get married, what a feeling.
The Lovings relocated and in time, had three children.
Five years in DC, they were happy, but they missed
The life that they left behind and to return was their wish.
In 1963, inspired by the civil rights movement,
Mildred wrote Robert Kennedy to see
If he could help the Lovings, to see what he could do.
Kennedy pointed to the ACLU.
With the help of the ACLU, the Lovings' case,
Loving v. Virginia, had made it all the way
To the Supreme Court. Lawyers for Virginia claimed
It was perfectly legal to ban marriage due to race,
But the Lovings' lawyers argued that the law went against
The guarantee of equal protection and due process
Granted by the 14th Amendment within the Constitution.
They also said within the law, racism was rooted.
In 1967 the Supreme Court ruled
Unanimously that the law was unconstitutional.

They said a ban on interracial marriage violated

The 14th Amendment, like the Lovings' lawyers stated.

Chief Justice Earl Warren boldly wrote:

"Under the Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual and cannot be infringed by the State."

OK, so this landmark ruling swept the country in a blaze,

Making interracial marriages legal from state to state.

Fighting for equality, driven by love and faith,

The Lovings' journey showed how love is stronger than hate.