

STORY SLUG: SPECIAL REPORT

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INTERVIEWER: BILL BEUTEL

INTERVIEWEES:

Announcer, Class, Jane Elliott, John, Raymond, Russell, Sandra, Student, Student

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SPECIAL REPORT

BILL BEUTEL

May 11, 1970

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INTERVIEWEES: ANNOUNCER, BILL BEUTEL, CLASS, JANE ELLIOTT, JOHN, RAYMOND, RUSSELL, SANDRA, STUDENT, STUDENT

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TAPE NUMBER: 1

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[SLUG: NOW: THE EYE OF THE STORM]

[AIRDTE: 05/11/70]

[AIRTME: 20:00 - 20:30]

[ANCH: BILL BEUTEL]

[ANCHLOC: ]

[STORY: SPECIAL REPORT]

[CORR: ]

[CORLOC: ]

[TOPIC: ]

[CONTENT: ]

[1]20:00:02 ANNOUNCER

This is Sandra's and Raymond's school. This is Sondra at her desk. This is Raymond at his desk. Sondra has brown eyes. Raymond has blue eyes. This is what their teacher said.

[1]20:00:22 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Blue eyed people are smarter than brown eyed people.

[1]20:00:26 STUDENT (MALE)

Uh-uh.

[1]20:00:27 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

They are cleaner than brown eyed people.

[1]20:00:30 STUDENT (MALE)

Uh-uh.

[1]20:00:30 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

They are more civilized than brown eyed people.

[1]20:00:34 ANNOUNCER

Sondra and her brown eyed friends didn't like that day. But Raymond did.

[1]20:00:39 RAYMOND (STUDENT)

It felt like I was (inaudible) brown eyes. Like I was better than them. Happy.

[graphics: now]

[graphics: the eye of the storm]

[1]20:00:58 ANNOUNCER

Now, the American adventure. The people and events shaping our lives and our times, now. This week, "The Eye of the Storm," an experiment in teaching the anatomy of prejudice, with ABC News correspondent Bill Beutel, in just a moment.

[commercial break]

[eof999]

[STORY: NOW, THE AMERICAN ADVENTURE]

[STORY2: THE EYE OF THE STORM]

[CORR: BILL BEUTEL]

[CORLOC: ]

[TOPIC: ]

[CONTENT: EYES, BROWN, BLUE, PREJUDICE, ELLIOTT]

[1]20:01:37 ANNOUNCER

Here is Bill Beutel.

[1]20:01:40 BILL BEUTEL (ABC NEWS)

(OC) Riceville, Iowa, with a population of a little less than 1,000 people, sees the turmoil and hears the angry voices of the time only in television. It has no ghetto, it has no campus, no riots, no demonstrations, no Negroes. Its people are all white, and all Christian. It's a relatively poor town surrounded by large cornfields. And it's so far removed from the anguish of the cities, that it was often hard for the people here to understand the forces that are dividing the United States today.

[1]20:02:10 BILL BEUTEL (ABC NEWS)

Until a teacher at the town school deliberately provoked an incident of discrimination based on color. It happened at the community elementary school in Riceville, the town's finest building. Here, nearly 600 farm children are educated by 55 teachers. One of them, Mrs. Jane Elliott, is determined that along with reading and writing and the new math, her third grade students will also learn about the prejudice and discrimination that are facts of life in this country.

[graphics: monday]

[graphics: classroom children sing lesson]

[1]20:03:11 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You almost didn't say it at the right time, didn't you? Okay, I'd like to...

[1]20:03:14 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

On Monday, we had business as usual. We did a regular school day.

[1]20:03:20 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, now what multiplication facts are hidden?

[1]20:03:22 STUDENT (MALE)

Six times three.

[1]20:03:26 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Right. Okay, how many sets?

[1]20:03:31 STUDENT (MALE)

Six.

[1]20:03:32 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Six sets of...

[1]20:03:34 STUDENT (MALE)

Three.

[1]20:03:34 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Three. Okay, what are six sets of three? Count them again.

[1]20:03:40 STUDENT (MALE)

Eighteen.

[1]20:03:40 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Right. Okay, now, let's put that down here. I'm sorry that the rest of you have to wait, but we wait for you, so you can wait for him.

[1]20:03:49 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I think part of education is having a child learn something about living beyond the textbook.

[1]20:03:56 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Good job. Good job, very good. I keep telling you, you're the best there is. These are very, very good.

[1]20:04:07 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The morning after Martin Luther King was killed, I, a child came into the room and said, they shot a king last night, why did they shoot a king? And we had to discuss it. We discussed it, and I had thought about this all evening the night before, watching this horror on television. And at the time, we were studying an Indian unit, and I was ironing the teepee as I was listening to this thing, and it became so utterly ridiculous to me, this whole thing is so, so senseless.

[1]20:04:39 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

And based on something so illogical, that I thought they had to find out, children have to find out. Adults obviously don't care, or if they do care, they don't care enough to do anything, or are incapable of doing something. I don't know. I think children have to be told that this is wrong. And telling them, they can turn you off. I wanted them to be involved in finding out what happened. I wanted them to know at least a little bit about how it feels to be stepped upon.

[class recited pledge of allegiance]

[graphics: tuesday morning]

[class sings "god bless america"]

[1]20:05:56 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

This is a special week. Does anybody know what it is?

[1]20:05:59 STUDENT (MALE)

National Brotherhood Week.

[1]20:05:59 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

National Brotherhood Week. What's brotherhood?

[1]20:06:02 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Be kind to your brothers?

[1]20:06:04 STUDENT (MALE)

Be kind, be kind...

[1]20:06:05 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, be kind to your brothers.

[1]20:06:06 STUDENT (MALE)

Like you would like to be treated.

[1]20:06:08 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Treat everyone the way you would like to be treated. Treat everyone as though he was your...

[1]20:06:13 STUDENT (MALE)

Brother.

[1]20:06:14 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

...brother. And is there anyone in this United States we do not treat as our brothers?

[1]20:06:20 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:06:20 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:06:20 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Who?

[1]20:06:21 STUDENT (MALE)

The black people.

[1]20:06:22 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The black people. Who else?

[1]20:06:25 SANDRA (STUDENT)

Indians?

[1]20:06:25 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Absolutely, the Indians. And when you see, when many people see a black person, or a yellow person, or a red person, what do they think?

[1]20:06:35 STUDENT (MALE)

Look at that, stupid.

[1]20:06:36 SANDRA (STUDENT)

Look at them. Dumb people.

[1]20:06:38 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

And look at the dumb people. What else do they think sometimes? What kinds of things do they say about black people?

[1]20:06:44 STUDENT (MALE)

Call them - niggers.

[1]20:06:46 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

In a city, many places in the United States, how are black people treated? How are Indians treated? How are people who are of a different color than we are treated?

[1]20:06:56 STUDENT (MALE)

Like they (inaudible) they don't get anything in this world.

[1]20:07:02 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Why is that?

[1]20:07:03 STUDENT (MALE)

Because they're a different color.

[1]20:07:04 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You think you know how it would feel to be judged by the color of your skin?

[1]20:07:07 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:07:09 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I don't, do you think you do? No, I don't think you'd know how that felt unless you had been through it, would you?

[1]20:07:15 STUDENT (MALE)

Uh-uh.

[1]20:07:15 STUDENT (FEMALE)

No.

[1]20:07:16 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Is there anything about you people that is different from one another, that we could use to make part of you...

[1]20:07:25 STUDENT (FEMALE)

(Inaudible)

[1]20:07:27 STUDENT (MALE)

Like your eyes, the color of the eyes?

[1]20:07:31 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, we can use the color of your eyes. How many in here have blue eyes? Okay, how many in here have brown eyes? It might be interesting to judge people today by the color of their eyes. Would you like to try this?

[1]20:07:47 CLASS (GROUP)

Yeah.

[1]20:07:48 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Sounds like fun, doesn't it? Since I'm the teacher and I have blue eyes, I think maybe the blue eyed people should be on top the first day. I mean, the blue eyed people are the better people in this room.

[1]20:08:06 STUDENT (MALE)

Uh-uh.

[1]20:08:08 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh yes they are. Blue eyed people are smarter than brown eyed people.

[1]20:08:14 STUDENT (MALE)

Uh-uh.

[1]20:08:16 STUDENT (MALE)

My dad isn't (inaudible).

[1]20:08:18 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Is your dad brown eyed?

[1]20:08:19 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:08:20 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

One day you came to school and you told us that he kicked you.

[1]20:08:24 STUDENT (MALE)

He did.

[1]20:08:24 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Do you think a blue eyed father would kick his son?

[1]20:08:29 STUDENT (MALE)

Yep. My dad would.

[1]20:08:29 STUDENT (MALE) (CONTINUED)

My dad...

[1]20:08:30 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

My dad's blue eyed, he's never kicked me. Greg's dad is blue eyed, he's never kicked him. Rex's dad is blue eyed, he's never kicked him. What color eyes did George Washington have?

[1]20:08:43 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Blue.

[1]20:08:44 STUDENT (MALE)

Blue or ugly brown.

[1]20:08:46 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Blue, blue. This is a, this is a fact. Blue eyed people are better than brown eyed people. Are you brown eyed or blue eyed?

[1]20:09:02 STUDENT (MALE)

Blue.

[1]20:09:02 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Why are you shaking your head?

[1]20:09:05 STUDENT (MALE)

I don't know.

[1]20:09:07 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Are you sure that you're right? Why? What makes you so sure that you're right?

[1]20:09:15 STUDENT (MALE)

I don't know.

[1]20:09:17 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The blue eyed people get five extra minutes of recess, while the brown eyed people have to stay in. The brown eyed people do not get to use the drinking fountain, you'll have to use the paper cups. You brown eyed people are not to play with the blue eyed people on the playground, because you are not as good as blue eyed people. The brown eyed people in this room today are going to wear collars, so that we can tell from a distance what color your eyes are.

[1]20:09:51 STUDENT (FEMALE)

They'll need to.

[1]20:09:53 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Now, the blue eyed people, each of you can pick out someone on whom to put a collar.

[1]20:09:57 STUDENT (FEMALE)

I will.

[1]20:09:58 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

So the blue eyed people each come up and get a collar. You can choose someone to put this collar on. Where are the most fun seats in the room, at the front or the back?

[1]20:10:14 STUDENT (MALE)

Front.

[1]20:10:14 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Back.

[1]20:10:14 STUDENT (MALE)

Front.

[1]20:10:15 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Front. Where should, who should sit in the front then?

[1]20:10:18 CLASS (GROUP)

The blue eyes.

[1]20:10:18 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I think the blue eyed people should, absolutely.

[1]20:10:23 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

On page 127, 127, is everyone ready? Everyone but Lori. You ready, Lori?

[1]20:10:38 STUDENT (MALE)

Brown eyed.

[1]20:10:38 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

She's a brown eyed. You'll begin to notice today that we spend a great deal of time waiting for brown eyed people. The yardstick's gone. Well, okay, I don't see any yardstick, do you?

[1]20:10:52 STUDENT (FEMALE)

It's over there.

[1]20:10:54 STUDENT (MALE)

Hey, Miss Elliott, you better take that out of your desk, so if the brown people, brown eyed people get out of hand.

[1]20:11:03 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, you think if the brown eyed people get out of hand, that would be the thing to use?

[1]20:11:09 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Who goes first to lunch?

[1]20:11:10 CLASS (GROUP)

Blue eyes.

[1]20:11:11 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The blue eyed people. No brown eyed people go back for seconds. Blue eyed people may go back for seconds, brown eyed people do not.

[1]20:11:18 STUDENT (MALE)

How come not the brown eyed?

[1]20:11:20 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Don't you know?

[1]20:11:21 STUDENT (MALE)

They're not smart.

[1]20:11:24 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Is that the only reason?

[1]20:11:24 STUDENT (MALE)

You're afraid they'll take too much.

[1]20:11:25 STUDENT (MALE)

Look at (inaudible).

[1]20:11:26 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Might take too much.

[1]20:11:27 STUDENT (FEMALE)

And tell the person that goes back to stay there because they'll ask for these blue collars, so, so if they don't ask you, they just might go back.

[1]20:11:38 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, you think I should alert the lunchroom help to know that these people should be treated differently?

[1]20:11:45 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah, like, the woman that you go back for seconds, tell her. She'll know.

[1]20:11:50 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:11:51 STUDENT (MALE)

Tell her.

[1]20:11:52 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Probably we should do that, shouldn't we?

[1]20:11:55 STUDENT (MALE)

Miss (inaudible).

[1]20:11:55 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, quietly, not a sound.

[graphics: now]

[1]20:11:59 ANNOUNCER

We will return to "The Eye of the Storm" in just a moment.

[commercial break]

[graphics: tuesday afternoon]

[1]20:12:24 STUDENT (FEMALE)

And it seemed like when we were down on the bottom, everything bad was happening to us.

[1]20:12:29 STUDENT (MALE)

The way they treated you, you felt like you didn't even want to try to do anything.

[1]20:12:34 STUDENT (FEMALE)

It seemed like Mrs. Elliott was taking our best friends away from us.

[1]20:12:47 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

What happened at recess? Were two of you boys fighting?

[1]20:12:49 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:12:50 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Russell and John.

[1]20:12:51 STUDENT (MALE)

Russell and John were.

[1]20:12:52 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Russell.

[1]20:12:53 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

What happened, John?

[1]20:12:55 JOHN (STUDENT)

Russell called me names and I hit him. Hit him in the gut.

[1]20:13:01 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

What did he call you?

[1]20:13:03 JOHN (STUDENT)

Brown eyes.

[1]20:13:06 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Did you call him brown eyes?

[1]20:13:09 JOHN (STUDENT)

They always call us that. Greg and all of the blue eyes call us that.

[1]20:13:13 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Yeah, the blue eyes, they kept calling us brown eyes.

[1]20:13:16 STUDENT (FEMALE)

And he'd say this, come here, brown eyes.

[1]20:13:19 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Then they were calling us blue eyes.

[1]20:13:20 STUDENT (MALE)

I wasn't. (Inaudible) and Donna were.

[1]20:13:23 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:13:24 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

What's wrong with being called brown eyes?

[1]20:13:29 STUDENT (MALE)

It means that we're stupid and, well, not that, but...

[1]20:13:32 RAYMOND (STUDENT)

Oh, that's just the same way as other people calling black people niggers.

[1]20:13:40 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

That's the reason you hit him, John? Did it help? Did it stop him? Did it make you feel better inside?

[1]20:13:50 STUDENT (FEMALE)

(Inaudible) stop Russell.

[1]20:13:53 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Did it make you feel better inside? It make you feel better to call him brown eyes? Why do you suppose you call him brown eyes?

[1]20:14:04 RUSSELL (STUDENT)

Because he has brown eyes.

[1]20:14:05 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Is that the only reason? You didn't call him brown eyes yesterday, and he had brown eyes yesterday, didn't he?

[1]20:14:10 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Because we decided it.

[1]20:14:11 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah, ever since you put those blue things on their neck.

[1]20:14:14 STUDENT (MALE)

They tease them. Trying to tease them.

[1]20:14:17 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, is it teasing?

[1]20:14:17 STUDENT (MALE)

No. well he did it once.

[1]20:14:21 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Were you doing it for fun, to be funny, or were you doing it to be mean?

[1]20:14:30 RUSSELL (STUDENT)

Mean?

[1]20:14:31 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I don't know, don't ask me. Did anyone laugh at you when you did it?

[1]20:14:35 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I watched what had been marvelous, cooperative, wonderful, thoughtful children, turn into nasty, vicious, discriminating little third graders in a space of 15 minutes. I think I learned more from the superior children than I did from the children who were considered superior, than I did from the children who were considered inferior, because their personalities changed even more than the others did. Whether they are this, whether this is what they would like to be inside, but society inhibits them, I don't know. But for one day we removed their inhibitions and they were ghastly. We didn't like one another very well by the end of the day, that first time.

[graphics: wednesday morning]

[1]20:15:23 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Yesterday I told you that brown eyed people aren't as good as blue eyed people. That wasn't true. I lied to you yesterday.

[1]20:15:33 STUDENT (MALE)

Oh, boy, here we go again.

[1]20:15:35 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The truth is that brown eyed people are better than blue eyed people.

[class laughs]

[1]20:15:43 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Russell, where are your glasses?

[1]20:15:47 RUSSELL (STUDENT)

I forgot them.

[1]20:15:48 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You forgot them? What color are your eyes?

[1]20:15:51 RUSSELL (STUDENT)

Blue.

[1]20:15:53 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Susan Ginder (PH) has brown eyes. She didn't forget her glasses.

[1]20:15:59 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:15:59 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Russell Bring (PH) has blue eyes and what about his glasses?

[1]20:16:03 CLASS (GROUP)

He forgot them.

[1]20:16:04 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

He forgot them. All these brown eyed people are listening to what we're saying. Look at Brian. Are blue eyed people good listeners?

[1]20:16:12 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:16:14 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Brian, will you put that down please? Thank you. Yesterday, we were visiting and Greg said, boy, I'd like to hit my little sister as hard as I can, that's fun. What does that tell you about blue eyed people?

[1]20:16:31 STUDENT (MALE)

They're naughty.

[1]20:16:33 STUDENT (FEMALE)

They fight a lot.

[1]20:16:34 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The brown eyed people may take off their collars. And each of you may put your collar on a blue eyed person.

[1]20:16:52 STUDENT (FEMALE)

(Inaudible) him all day.

[1]20:16:55 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You were?

[1]20:16:55 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Yes, I was.

[1]20:16:57 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

The brown eyed people get five extra minutes of recess. You blue eyed people are not allowed to be on the playground equipment at any time. You blue eyed people are not to play with the brown eyed people. Blue eyed people go to the back, the brown eyed people come to the front.

[1]20:17:26 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay. Brown eyed people are better than blue eyed people. They're smarter than blue eyed people, and if you don't believe it, look at Brian. Do blue eyed people know how to sit in a chair? Very sad, very, very sad. Who can tell me what contraction should be in the first sentence? Go the board and write it, John. Come on, loosen up, here we go. That's better. Let's do it again. (Singing) Oh, there's nothing like a W, thank Heaven for the blessing.

[1]20:18:10 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Here we go. Come on, let's do it again, loosen up. Up, up, up, come on. That's better. Now, do you know how to make a W? Okay, write the contraction for we are. Now that's beautiful writing. Is that better?

[1]20:18:32 CLASS (GROUP)

Yes.

[1]20:18:34 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Brown eyed people learn fast, don't they?

[1]20:18:36 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:18:37 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Boy, do the brown eyed people learn fast. Very good.

[1]20:18:46 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Greg, what did you do with that cup? Will you please go and get that cup, and put your name on it, and keep it at your desk. Blue eyed people are wasteful.

[1]20:19:04 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, want to be timed this morning?

[1]20:19:05 CLASS (GROUP)

Yeah.

[1]20:19:09 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I use Orton Gillingham phonics, we use the card pack, and the children, the brown eyed children were in the low class the first day, and it took them five and a half minutes to get through the card pack. The second day, it took them two and a half minutes. The only thing that had changed was the fact that now they were superior people.

[1]20:19:27 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You went faster than I've ever had anyone go through the card pack. Why couldn't you get them yesterday?

[1]20:19:36 STUDENT (MALE)

We were brown eyed.

[1]20:19:36 STUDENT (FEMALE)

We had those collars on.

[1]20:19:38 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You think the collars kept you (inaudible) ?

[1]20:19:39 STUDENT (FEMALE)

We kept thinking about those collars.

[1]20:19:43 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh.

[1]20:19:44 STUDENT (FEMALE)

We just went like this, and my eyes kept rolling around.

[1]20:19:47 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, and you couldn't think as well with the collars on.

[1]20:19:51 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Four minutes and 18 seconds.

[1]20:19:55 STUDENT (MALE)

I knew we weren't gonna make it.

[1]20:19:58 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

How long did it take you yesterday?

[1]20:20:00 CLASS (GROUP)

Three minutes.

[1]20:20:02 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Three minutes. How long did it take you today?

[1]20:20:05 STUDENT (MALE)

Four minutes and 18 seconds.

[1]20:20:07 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

What happened?

[1]20:20:08 STUDENT (MALE)

We're dumb.

[1]20:20:09 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Why? What were you thinking of?

[1]20:20:15 CLASS (GROUP)

This.

[1]20:20:18 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

I hate today.

[1]20:20:21 STUDENT (MALE)

You do? I hate it too.

[1]20:20:26 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Because I'm blue eyed.

[1]20:20:27 STUDENT (FEMALE)

See, I am too.

[1]20:20:30 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

There's nothing, it's not funny, it's not fun, it's not pleasant. Is it a filthy, nasty word called discrimination. We're treating people a certain way because they are different from the rest of us. Is that fair?

[1]20:20:43 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:20:45 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Nothing fair about it. We didn't say this was going to be a fair day, did we?

[1]20:20:49 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:20:49 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

And it isn't. It's a horrid day.

[graphics: now]

[1]20:20:54 ANNOUNCER

"The Eye of the Storm" concludes after this message.

[commercial break]

[graphics: wednesday afternoon]

[1]20:21:13 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, you ready? What did you blue, people who are wearing blue collars now, find out today?

[1]20:21:19 STUDENT (FEMALE)

(Inaudible)

[1]20:21:19 STUDENT (MALE)

I know what they felt like yesterday.

[1]20:21:22 STUDENT (MALE)

I did too. (Makes noise)

[1]20:21:24 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

How did they feel yesterday?

[1]20:21:26 RAYMOND (STUDENT)

Down.

[1]20:21:28 STUDENT (MALE)

Like a dog on a leash.

[1]20:21:29 STUDENT (MALE)

Yeah.

[1]20:21:31 STUDENT (FEMALE)

It feels like a chain and a lock.

[1]20:21:32 STUDENT (MALE)

Like a chain wherever you go.

[1]20:21:32 STUDENT (MALE) (CONTINUED)

And a prison, like you're chained up in a prison, and you're throwing the key away.

[1]20:21:38 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Should the color of some other person's eyes have anything to do with how you treat them?

[1]20:21:42 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:21:44 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

All right, then, should the color of their skin?

[1]20:21:46 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:21:47 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Should you judge people...

[1]20:21:49 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:21:49 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

...by the color of their skin?

[1]20:21:51 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:21:54 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

You're going to say that today, and this week, and probably all the time you're in this room. You'll say no, Mrs. Elliott.

[1]20:22:06 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:07 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Every time I ask that question.

[1]20:22:10 STUDENT (FEMALE)

No, Mrs. Elliott.

[1]20:22:11 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Then, when you see a black man, or an Indian, or someone walking down the street, are you gonna say, ha ha, look at that silly looking thing?

[1]20:22:24 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:26 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Does it make any difference whether their skin is black or white?

[1]20:22:32 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:32 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Or yellow?

[1]20:22:34 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:34 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Or red?

[1]20:22:34 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:36 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Is that how you decide whether people are good or bad?

[1]20:22:38 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:38 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Is that what makes people good or bad?

[1]20:22:41 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:22:42 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Let's take these collars off.

[1]20:22:46 STUDENT (MALE)

(Inaudible)

[1]20:22:49 STUDENT (MALE)

It doesn't matter, I'm gonna, I'd like to just jerk it off if I could.

[1]20:22:54 STUDENT (MALE)

(Inaudible)

[1]20:22:54 STUDENT (MALE) (CONTINUED)

Here, Mrs. Elliott, you can have it.

[1]20:22:56 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

What would you like to do with them?

[1]20:22:58 STUDENT (MALE)

Throw them away.

[1]20:22:58 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Go ahead.

[1]20:23:00 STUDENT (FEMALE)

Go ahead.

[1]20:23:00 STUDENT (FEMALE) (CONTINUED)

Here, Mrs. Elliott.

[1]20:23:05 STUDENT (FEMALE)

(Inaudible)

[1]20:23:07 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Now you know a little bit more than you knew at the beginning of this week?

[1]20:23:12 CLASS (GROUP)

Yes.

[1]20:23:13 STUDENT (FEMALE)

A lot.

[1]20:23:14 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Do you know a little bit more than you wanted to?

[1]20:23:17 CLASS (GROUP)

Yes.

[1]20:23:19 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

This isn't an easy way to learn this, is it?

[1]20:23:21 CLASS (GROUP)

No, Mrs. Elliott.

[1]20:23:24 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, will you stop that? Okay, now, let's all sit down here together. Blue eyes and brown eyes. Does it make any difference what color you are?

[1]20:23:35 STUDENT (FEMALE)

No.

[1]20:23:35 CLASS (GROUP)

No.

[1]20:23:37 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Down, girl.

[1]20:23:43 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, you found your friend, huh? Oh, you're friends again.

[1]20:23:50 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Okay, you ready to listen up? Okay, now are you back?

[1]20:23:53 CLASS (GROUP)

Yes.

[1]20:23:55 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

That feel better?

[1]20:23:57 CLASS (GROUP)

Yeah.

[1]20:23:59 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Does the color of eyes that you have make any difference in the kind of person you are?

[1]20:24:03 CLASS (GROUP)

No, Mrs. Elliott.

[1]20:24:06 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Does that feel like being home again, girls?

[1]20:24:09 CLASS (GROUP)

Yes.

[1]20:24:10 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

Oh, will you stop it? Okay, who knows a song? Anybody? Okay, who can sing? What's the matter, Sheila?

[1]20:24:23 STUDENT (MALE)

She was crying a minute ago. Sheila was crying a minute ago.

[1]20:24:27 JANE ELLIOTT (TEACHER)

See what I mean? Feel better now? Miserable situation, isn't it? Okay, who knows one?

[1]20:24:34 CLASS (GROUP)

I do.

[class sings "where oh where is sweet little sheila"]

[1]20:24:48 BILL BEUTEL (ABC NEWS)

Jane Elliott's third graders have learned something of what it is to be isolated and separated from other people. Not because of what you are, but because of the color of your eyes, or the color of a piece of cloth around your neck, or the color of your skin. We don't know if these children will remember what they've learned, but it's not likely that they'll forget their courageous and creative teacher, who made their lives wretched for one day, and at the same time, gave them the priceless understanding of human psychology. This is Bill Beutel in Riceville, Iowa.

[graphics: now]

[graphics: the eye of the storm]

[graphics: produced and written by william peters]

[1]20:26:10 ANNOUNCER

John Causier (PH) speaking. This has been a presentation of ABC News.

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