

See Dick. See Jane. See Dick and Jane Perform Middle Class Values.

A Modest Deviation



For decades, the *Dick and Jane* readers largely reflected a stereotypical, middle-class suburbia punctuated by its monochromatic uniformity. However, in 1965, Scott, Foresman & Co. introduced African American characters into the readers. Though minor in scope of content and taking place after the readers peaked in popularity, it suggests a good-faith effort to acknowledge shifts in national sentiment. On the heels of the Civil Rights Act's passage, Mike, the twins Pam and Penny, and their parents (as with all adult figures, they remained unnamed authority figures) joined Dick, Jane, and Sally at play.