

# student activity 1

“Our whole constitutional heritage rebels at the thought of giving government the power to control men’s minds.” – Thurgood Marshall

# stay woke!

Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP were key players in the fight to end segregation in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s. During this time, African Americans fought valiantly to end discriminatory policies. Thurgood Marshall argued and won many cases which changed the course of America. Our society would be very different today had he not won these cases. Look at some of the cases Thurgood Marshall won and predict what this world would be like had he not won them.

### Cases Won

#### Murray v. Pearson

1936 – Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP represented Donald Gaines Murray. He was denied admission to the University of Maryland School of Law because of his race. Marshall argued that the state failed to provide a “separate but equal” education as required by law. The judge ordered Raymond Pearson, president of the university to admit Murray to the Law School.

#### Chambers v. Florida

1940 – Thurgood Marshall represented four Black men who were convicted of murdering a white man in Florida. Thurgood Marshall was able to get their convictions overturned on the basis their confessions had been coerced.

#### Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka

1954 – Thurgood Marshall represented thirteen Topeka parents against the Board of Education of the City of Topeka, Kansas on behalf of their 20 children. This was a landmark case which ended legal segregation in public schools. The plaintiffs in this case were ordinary people who just wanted a better life for their children.

**Write your comments about these cases and predict what would have happened had these cases not have been won.**

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Research current social injustices happening in our society today. Create a plan to fight these injustices. What are you willing to stand up for?

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# student activity 2

## marshall character analysis

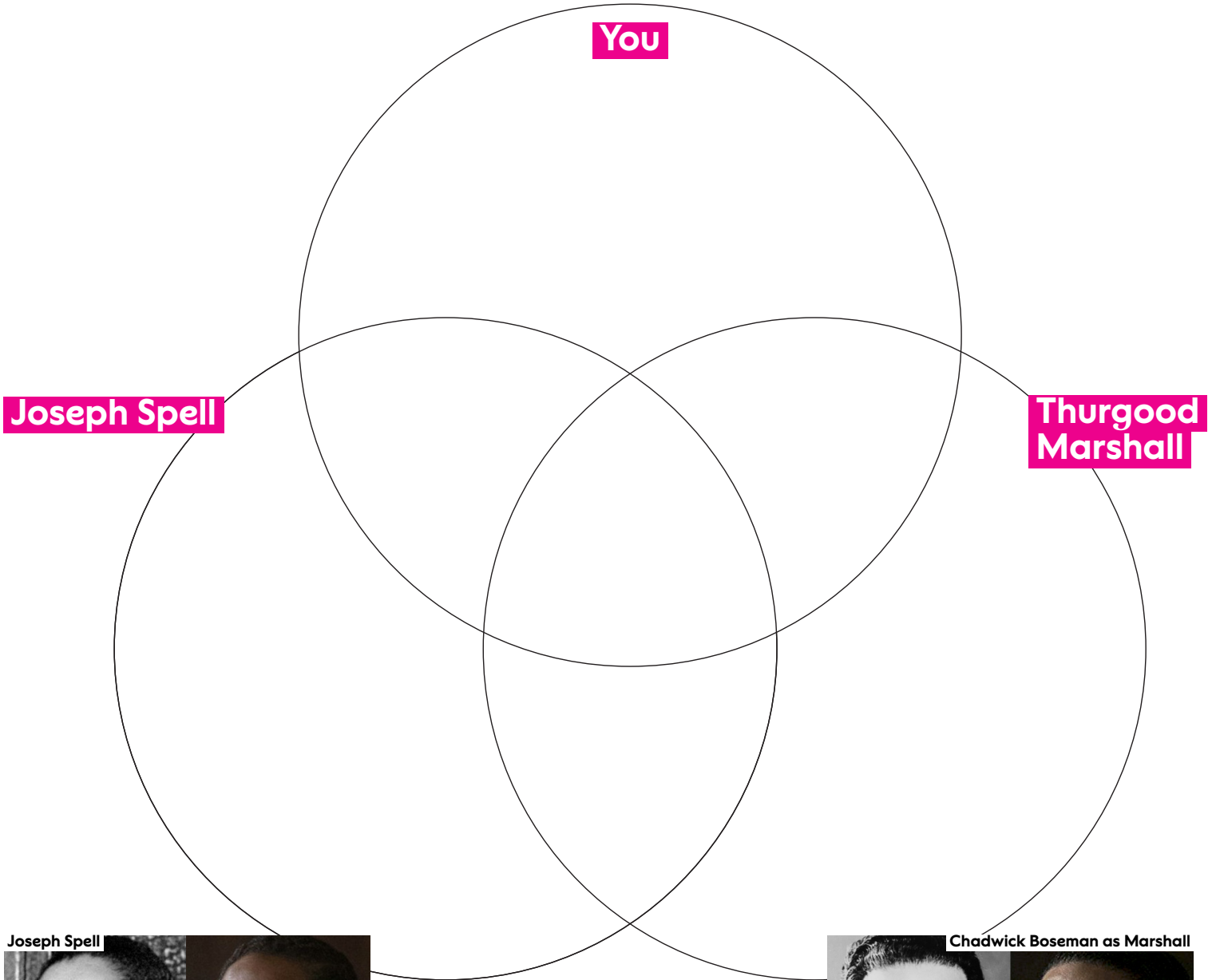
Use the Venn diagram to compare Thurgood Marshall, Joseph Spell and yourself.

Write 3 traits for each person and decide which traits are shared by each character. Write a character analysis of Marshall, Spell or yourself. Describe the behaviors.

Which one are you most like and why?

If you were Thurgood Marshall, what would you have done differently?

If you were Joseph Spell, what would you have done differently?



Joseph Spell



Sterling K. Brown as Spell

Chadwick Boseman as Marshall



Thurgood Marshall