



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Julia Scott Reed. Then, answer questions about it.

Julia Scott Reed 1917–2004

Pioneering Black journalist Julia Scott Reed was born in Dallas in 1917. After graduating from high school, she studied journalism and communications at a local business school.

In 1950, Reed became a Texas correspondent for *The Call*, a Kansas City African American newspaper. A year later, she joined the *Dallas Express*, the area's dominant Black newspaper at the time. She worked her way through the ranks at the Express to become its city editor.

Reed's coverage of historic events such as the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education case and the 1964 trial of Jack Ruby brought her recognition and respect as a journalist. During this time, Reed also provided commentary for Fort Worth-based radio station KNOK.

In 1967, Reed was hired by the *Dallas Morning News*, becoming the first African American employed full-time at the newspaper. Her column "The Open Line" gave a much-needed voice to Dallas's Black community. At a time of widespread racial tension, Reed's writing helped promote dialogue between the city's white and Black communities.

Reed was also active in the civil rights movement, Democratic politics, and community service.

In 1978, Reed suffered a major stroke, which prematurely ended her journalism career. She died in 2004. In 2018, the *Morning News* named a space after Reed in their new building to recognize her trailblazing career and record of public service.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Julia Scott Reed. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Name two events that Julia Scott Reed covered when she worked for the *Dallas Express*.
2. What did Reed's writing for the *Dallas Morning News* do?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Creating Connections.** How do you think Reed's work as a journalist could have supported her work in the civil rights movement?