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Life, for a migrant family, was very difficult. The Chavez family moved frequently, following the crops. At one point they were forced to live in a broken-down garage with no electricity or water.

Farm workers were paid by the bucket, earning 40 cents for a large bucket of vegetables. At this rate, Cesar's family would have to pick 125 buckets (2 tons of produce) to make \$50.

They had no help from state services, and no medical care. The whole family worked in the fields because child labor laws were mostly ignored by the big produce companies.

Then, more tragedy struck:

- Cesar's sister died from drinking contaminated water.
- The cruelties of poverty were multiplied by the racial and ethnic discrimination the Chavez family endured.
- Cesar felt the sting of prejudice when he would see signs which read, "No Dogs or Mexicans" or "Whites Only."
- Most of the stores, movie theaters, buses, restrooms and public facilities were off-limits to Cesar and other migrant workers.

Because his family moved frequently in search of work, Cesar attended 65 schools during his youth—sometimes for a week, sometimes for a day, sometimes not at all because he was needed in the fields. But Cesar realized the value of education and, with every chance he had, he would go to the public library to read.

It was there, in California's public libraries, where Cesar read about great people such as Mahatma Gandhi and Saint Francis of Assisi. And it was their influence which helped to form his belief in justice, equality, compassion and human dignity.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Life-as-a-Migrant-Family-Cesar-Chavez-Standing-Up-for-Migrant-Farm-Workers>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Life-as-a-Migrant-Family-Cesar-Chavez-Standing-Up-for-Migrant-Farm-Workers>

Media Stream

Life for a Migrant Worker's Child

Marion Post Wolcott (1910-1990) was a photographer employed by the U.S. government's Farm Security Administration. During her years working for the FSA, Wolcott took thousands of pictures, often traveling alone.

The Library of Congress describes the [scope of her work](#):

Marion Post Wolcott is best known for the more than 9,000 photographs she produced for the Farm Security Administration (FSA) from 1938 to 1942.

By way of comparison, Dorothea Lange took about 4,000 photos for the government's Resettlement Authority (later known as the FSA).



Wolcott's people skills, and her approachability, allowed her to take pictures of individuals living in desperate circumstances.

This photo, which Wolcott took in Florida during 1939, depicts a child standing in the doorway of a migrant-worker's shack. The home was located near the town of Belle Glade.

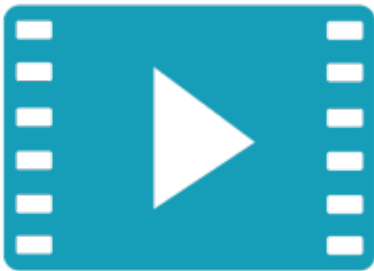
The situation for migrant workers was similar throughout Depression-era America, in crop-growing regions from Florida to California.

Click on the image for a much-better view.

Image, described above, online via the Library of Congress.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Life-for-a-Migrant-Worker-s-Child>



Gandhi - Legacy of Mahatma

Clip from the documentary, *Mahatma - Pilgrim of Peace*, online courtesy Google Video.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Gandhi-Legacy-of-Mahatma>