Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_

**Warriors Don’t Cry:**

**The Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock’s Central High**

**Setting:** Little Rock, Arkansas, 1950’s

Central High School

Eisenhower Administration

**The Little Rock Nine:**

Minnijean Brown

Carlotta Walls

Terrence Roberts

Gloria Ray

Thelma Mothershed

Elizabeth Eckford

Jefferson Thomas

Ernest Green

Melba Patillo

**Other characters:**

Lois Peyton Pattillo—Melba’s mom

Conrad Pattillo—Melba’s brother

Grandma India Arnette Peyton—Melba’s grandma

The Screaming Eagles 101st Airborne—the soldiers sent to Central High

Danny—white soldier assigned to Melba

Governor Faubus—governor of Arkansas

Vince—African American boy who likes Melba

Link—a white boy who became friends with Melba

Mrs. Huckaby—Vice principal at Central High

Mrs. Daisy Bates—the Arkansas president of the NAACP

Mr. Waylan—the white grocer who overcharges Melba’s family

Marissa—the older, slower girl who saved Melba from being raped

Mrs. Pickwick—Melba’s shorthand teacher at Central

Nana Healey—Link’s nanny

**CHAPTER 1 QUESTIONS:**

Melba says in Chapter 1, ‘it’s a white world’ in Arkansas during the 1950’s. List 2-4 events so far that might show what exactly she means.

How do the “humiliating expectations and traditions of segregation” shape the attitudes and actions of the adults in Melba’s family? How do these “expectations and traditions” affect the way Melba views their ability to protect her and themselves from mistreatment?

Describe Melba and Grandma India.

**CHAPTER 2 QUESTIONS:**

Who is the stranger that confronts her and what does he try to do? Is he successful? Why, or why not? What does Grandma do that shocks Melba, because Grandma always tries to save and keep things?

Why doesn't Melba's family or the community call “the law” (the police) when Melba or others are targeted?

**CHAPTER 4 QUESTIONS:**

How do Melba's neighbors respond to her going to her new school?

Was the first day at Central High a success, or not? Explain. What might Melba say?

What are the pros (possibilities) if Melba goes back to Central High after day one? What are the cons (or negative possibilities)?

**CHAPTER 5 QUESTIONS:**

Usually Melba's grandmother does not allow Melba to wear makeup and dress too fancy. Why, in this chapter, does she let her do these things?

President wants the local Little Rock, Arkansas courts to do something about the federal troops at the school. What is that and why does he want this to happen?

What was the basis of the governor’s argument against integration?

**CHAPTER 6 QUESTIONS:**

Why does the U.S. Federal (national) government go to court in Arkansas anyways?

Why are Melba and the other eight African American students asked to go to court? What is the outcome of the ruling?

**CHAPTER 7 QUESTIONS:**

How does the group of people outside of Central High respond to the nine students arriving to school? What about when the Little Rock Nine try to leave school?

How is covering the story of integration different for the nonwhite reporters compared to the experiences of the white reporters?

Who threatens to lynch, or hang, the African American students?

Was Melba and her peers' second day at school a success? Why or why not? Explain.

What do the angry mobs do and say to the students and others?

**CHAPTER 8 QUESTIONS:**

Who comes to assist the nine students? How do they try to help them?

Was deciding to go back to Central High and easy or difficult decision for Melba? Did she go in this chapter?

Do any adults from the school target the nine students? What do they do? Do any school adults play Melba's ally? How so? What does he/she do?

**CHAPTER 9 QUESTIONS:**

What decisions does Melba make about how to act or carry her body that she thinks will help her be a stronger warrior?

Danny suggests that Melba learn a very important skill? What is the skill? Do you agree she should learn the skill? Why, or why not?

What happened when Melba and Danny were alone in the stairwell?

Based on what happens at the end of chapter 9, do you think Danny believes Melba is a warrior?

**CHAPTER 10 QUESTIONS:**

Name the two major ways Melba was abused by white students at Central High during this chapter.

How was Melba saved in this chapter and by whom?

**CHAPTER 11 QUESTIONS:**

Minnijean really wants white students to like her at Central High. What one thing does she feel she must do to gain their acceptance? How do the other eight students feel about her plan?

What holiday does Melba experience twice in this chapter? Which version of the holiday does she enjoy more and why?

**CHAPTER 12 QUESTIONS:**

How is Melba different now when dealing with her attackers compared to how she reacted in earlier chapters?

Why does Melba only invite Minnijean to her party, rather than the entire group that is integrating Central?

What does Minnijean do in the cafeteria that gets her in trouble at school? Was her punishment fair? Why or why not?

**CHAPTER 14 QUESTIONS:**

Describe 1-2 ways that the “segregationalists” at Central High carefully plan, in a systematic way, how they will target Melba and the others. What do they plan to do? What do they do?

What are Melba’s ideas about suicide in this chapter?

What advice does Grandma India then give Melba about how to make choice about how she responds to her harassers?

**CHAPTER 15 QUESTIONS**

Briefly describe TWO ways Link helps warn Melba about possible attacks and acts of hatred and discrimination.

Why do you think Link secretly helps Melba avoid or trick those who target her? What risks is Link taking by offering his kind of friendship? What risks does Melba take in accepting and trusting his friendship?

**CHAPTER 16 QUESTIONS**

Does Melba trust Link, or not? Explain.

Why are Melba’s mother and grandmother suspicious of Link?

**CHAPTER 17 QUESTIONS**

Who is Mrs. Healey? How does Link feel about her? How does she feel about Link?

To what extent does Link take a stand against racism? Is he effective or not? Are his actions understandable if you think about racism in Little Rock during the 1950’s? Explain. Do you agree with his actions?

Link foreshadows a major disruption in the life of Melba's family at the end of page 202. What happens to her family and why?

**CHAPTER 18 QUESTIONS:**

Who is able to graduate in this final chapter? What has to happen to make sure he can graduate without being targeted?

What two things did the community resent most about integration? (Long term effects)

Who does Melba state that her husband symbolized?

What does Melba choose as a career? Does this seem like a natural choice to you, explain why or why not.

**Evaluation:**

What have Melba and the other African American students achieved after all? How have they made a difference in Little Rock? In cities across the nation? To the people around the world?

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