

MEYERLAND PERFORMING & VISUAL ARTS MIDDLE SCHOOL



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Dear Incoming 7th Grade Students and Parents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing our students with a challenging and rewarding curriculum, the Meyerland Performing and Visual Arts Middle School Language Arts Department has created a Summer Reading Program. We believe summer reading will enrich students and create a strong foundation for the reading and writing we will be doing during the upcoming school year. This summer we are asking students to read **one** book.

1. The seventh grade year is spent working on writing personal narratives and expository essays, the seventh grade Reading teachers have selected the memoir ***Warriors Don't Cry*** by Melba Pattillo Beals as required reading. This book recounts the author's experiences as one of the nine teenagers who integrated Arkansas' Little Rock High School in 1957.

Please note that while there is an adult version of this memoir, we are suggesting that students read the **abridged young adult version**. Students should complete the study guide provided for this text, which is available on the MPVAMS website: www.houstonisd.org/meyerland. Additionally, themes from this book will be incorporated into beginning of the year writing assignments and assessments in both Reading and English.

Important Deadlines:

Study Guide Due Date: Friday, September 13th

Warriors Don't Cry Novel Test: Week of September 23rd
(Actual test date will be determined by the teacher of record)

If you have any questions about the Summer Reading Program, please don't hesitate to contact us via e-mail. We hope this experience will be a valuable and enjoyable one for your child.

Sincerely,

7th Grade Reading Department

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Derilia Beaubrun – dbeaubru@houstonisd.org

Terry Jackson – tjacks28@houstonisd.org

Name _____

Summer Reading Assignment for

Warriors Don't Cry

by Melba Pattillo Beals

Directions: This study guide is a graded assignment due the week of September 13th. NO EXCEPTIONS!

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1.The author characterizes Melba's grandmother as-

Determined

Intelligent

Wrestling fan

Religious / Spiritual

Well-read

Protective

Text evidence:

2.How would you characterize Melba: *(Support with text evidence)*

3.Link is a student who dared to be Melba's friend and became one of her protectors. What event from Link's background led him to be open to African-American students being at Central High School?

4.What typed of conflict did Link face? Explain your answer with evidence from the text.

External Conflict			Internal Conflict
Man vs. Man	Man vs. Society	Man vs. Nature	Man vs. Self

5.Melba experienced inner and outer turmoil during the 1957-58 school year. Describe her inner turmoil and provide text evidence for your answer.

6.During her year at Central High School, what lesson about life did Melba learn? How did this change her as a person? (*Support with text evidence*)

7.What Supreme Court Case ordered schools to integrate?

☐

- A. Brown vs. Board of Education
- B. Plessy vs. Ferguson
- C. The NAACP vs. Little Rock
- D. Marshall vs. Faubus

8.“The hulking soldiers continued to observe her peril like spectators enjoying a sport,” is an example of what type of figurative language?

☐

- A. metaphor
- B. simile
- C. personification
- D. hyperbole

9.When Melba’s grandmother says, “You’re a warrior on battlefield for your Lord.” What type of figurative language is she using?

☐

- A. metaphor
- B. simile
- C. personification
- D. hyperbole

10.The quote, “Mr. Marshall was more than six feet tall, with a commanding presence, fair skin, and brown hair and mustache.” Is an example of which literary elements?

☐

- A. setting
- B. characterization
- C. exposition
- D. climax

11.How did Melba spend most lunches at school?

☐

- A. With the rest of the nine
- B. Alone in a safe place eating her sandwich
- C. Refusing to leave the cafeteria and remaining defiant
- D. In the principal’s office for counseling and advice

[excerpt from the Introduction]

Some people call me a heroine because I was one of nine black teenagers who integrated Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. At the age of fifteen I faced angry mobs violent enough to compel President Eisenhower to send combat-ready 101st Airborne soldiers to quell the violence. I endured a year of school days filled with events unlike any others in the history of this country. Although this happened over thirty-five years ago, I remember being inside Central High School as though it were yesterday.

From the beginning I kept a diary, and my mother, Dr. Lois Pattillo, a high school English teacher, kept copious notes and clipped a sea of newspaper articles. I began the first draft of this book when I was eighteen, but in the ensuing years, I could not face the ghosts that its pages called up. Now enough time has elapsed to allow healing to take place, enabling me to tell my story without bitterness.

12. Why didn't the author publish her book after its' completion?

- A. She did not have enough reliable information.
- B. She was too busy.
- C. Writing about these events was too emotionally painful.
- D. She didn't think anyone would be interested in reading her story.

Answer	Text Evidence

13. Based on the introduction, what category does this book fall under?

- A. memoir
- B. biography
- C. historical fiction
- D. fantasy

Answer	Text Evidence

DIALECTICAL JOURNAL ENTRIES

Quotation from the Text	Response
<i>"When Grandmother India always said God had pointed a finger at our family, asking for just a bit more discipline, more praying, and more hard work because he blessed us with good health and good brains."</i>	14.What inference is expressed with this statement?

Quotation from the Text	Response
<i>"You'll make this your last cry. You're a warrior on the battlefield for the Lord. God's warriors don't cry, 'cause they trust that he's always by their side. The women of this family don't break down in the face of trouble. We act with courage, and with God's help, we ship trouble right on out."</i>	15.Why is this quote important to the theme of the story?

Quotation from the Text	Response
<p><i>"I said I wish I were dead — did you hear me?"</i></p> <p><i>"Good idea! How did you plan going about it."</i></p> <p><i>"So do as you please, but I'd also think about that moment at which you'd have to face the Lord and explain your decision to him."</i></p>	<p>16.This quote reveals what type of emotions from both Melba and her Grandma India?</p>

Quotation from the Text	Response
<p><i>""Change the rules of the game, girl, and they might not like it so much."</i></p> <p><i>"They'd think I was crazy."</i></p> <p><i>"They'd think you were no longer their victim."</i></p>	<p>16.Grandma India teaches Melba to think differently. What else does the quote teach her?</p>

VOCABULARY USE THE DICTIONARY TO DEFINE THE BOLDED WORDS IN THE QUOTE AND CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE SYNONYM.

17. "the **humiliating** expectations and traditions of segregation"

Definition:

a. annoying

b. unfair

c. unreasonable

d. shaming

18. "filed a petition for an **injunction**"

Definition:

a. trail

b. jury

c. suspension

d. verdict

19. "she was as **meticulous** about her attire"

Definition:

a. careless

b. careful

c. concerned

d. worried

20. "as though her awful **predicament** were a triumph for them"

Definition:

a. situation

b. condition

c. problem

d. suffering

21. "desperately **groping** to find just the right response"

Definition:

a. searching

b. finding

c. shouting

d. hoping

22. "My body was **numb**"

Definition:

a. terrified

b. tense

c. without feeling

d. rigid

23. "the group spotlighted as **staunch** troublemakers"

Definition:

a. possible

b. potential

c. determined

d. unlikely

24. "other students **shunned** us during the lunch period"

Definition:

a. attacked

b. abused

c. avoided

d. joined

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Personal Narrative

Look at the picture below.



Sometimes to get what we want, we must face challenges.

Write a personal narrative about a time you overcame a challenge. Be sure to write about your experience in detail and describe why it was a challenge.

Write your essay on the 26-lined paper that has been provided to you.

Name: _____

[illegible]

STUDENT MAY NOT WRITE OUTSIDE THE BOX

GREETINGS

from



TO: 7th Reading Team

Meyerland PVA Middle School

1040 Manhattan Drive

Houston, TX 77096

Directions: Create a postcard illustrating the most memorable scene from the book. Be creative! You may use your own card. On the back, explain in a well-written, developed paragraph why this scene is important to the story. A rubric and postcard sheet has been supplied for you to complete the assignment.

Postcard Rubric

Category	4	3	2	1
Text (Grammar)	Spelling and grammar are all correct. Student uses complete sentences and use text evidence directly from the text to support answer.	Only one grammar and spelling error is present. Answer is supported by text evidence from the text.	Few spelling errors are presented and little to no evidence to support answer.	Incomplete sentences Lacks structured sentences. No text evidence to support answers.
Images / Picture	The photo/image is an accurate representation of an event/scene from the novel. The picture is neatly drawn and colored. Excellent use of font, color, and originality.	The photo/image is somewhat an accurate representation of a scene the novel. Picture is neatly drawn and some use of font and color.	The photo/image is not connected to the text. Little use of font and color. Includes very little detail	The photo/image is missing
Content	Postcard includes one neatly well written multi sentence paragraph (5-6 sentences) which answers the question in complete detail	Postcard includes 2-3 sentences answering the question with some details.	Postcard includes 1-2 sentences answering the question.	Little information explaining the answer.