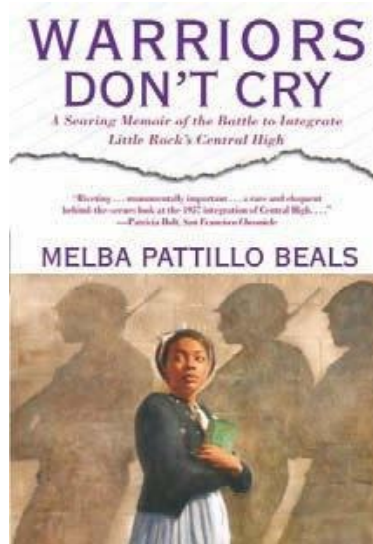


Name: _____

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Summer Reading Assignment

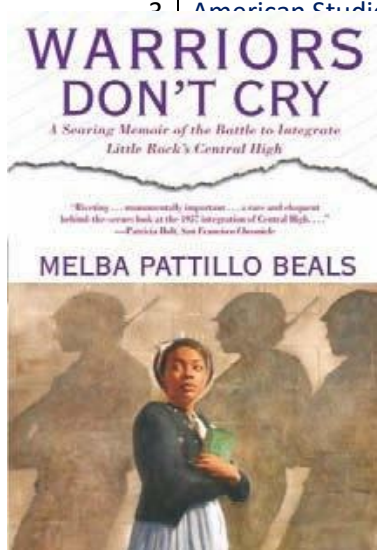
Required Reading:

Beals, Melba. Warriors Don't Cry. New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1994.

Directions: Read *Warriors Don't Cry* prior to the first day of school! Answer in complete sentences the following chapter questions. I will be assessing your preparation the first week of school. You will turn in a **typed/printed copy** of the reading questions/paragraph and be prepared to discuss the summer reading assignment the first day of class!

In addition to answering the guided reading questions for the summer reading book, type/word process a short, detailed paragraph response with a minimum of **three** examples on the following writing prompt:

From your perspective, what is the promise of America? Do the experiences of the individual(s) in *Warriors Don't Cry* reflect the promise? First, develop what you believe the promise of America to be in bullet/list format (*create your own understand as to what the "promise of America" entails*) and focus your written response on the second part of the writing question.



1. **Warriors Don't Cry. New York: Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1994.**

Questions from the chapter readings

complete sentences. You will turn these questions in on the first week of classes. Answers and **print out** to submit!

1. Melba says in the first paragraph, "Nobody presents you with a handbook when you're teething and says, 'Here's how you must behave as a second-class citizen.'" Instead, she has found that her experiences in her childhood . . . the "humiliating expectations and traditions" . . . are the things that "teach" blacks what society expects of them. Give 3 examples of experiences she has had or things she has learned. For each, explain how that might help her understand her "role" once she finally integrates into Little Rock High School.

2. Consider Melba's experience on the day that the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling was announced. Why would her Grandma want to burn Melba's clothes? Why didn't her parents call the police? What did Grandma tell Melba to do to "get over the feelings of shame"? How did Melba's visit to Cincinnati contrast with the thought of returning to Little Rock?

3. As the summer of 1957 comes to an end for Melba, she is faced with the start of the school year. Why is Melba beginning to have second thoughts regarding her decision to integrate Little Rock's Central High School? How does Governor Faubus' actions reflect the segregationists' attitude towards the nine African American students?

4. Were you surprised by the violent reaction on the 1st day of school? Why or why not?

5. President Eisenhower said, "Mob rule cannot be allowed to override the decision of the courts." Were the actions of the segregationists in Little Rock an example of mob rule or a true expression of democracy in action?

6. Why don't the teachers have or exert control? Why did Melba suddenly decide not to "roll over"?

7. God, Gandhi and the concept of nonviolence: How do they help Melba cope with her ordeal? Is a non-violent attitude a realistic approach? What is Melba's inner struggle?

8. "They win when you respond as they expect you to." What do you think of Melba's grandmothers' statement? "When you let yourself lose focus, you make big mistakes." Can you think of examples which support the Marine's statement? Is Link a hero?

9. Melba mentions that segregationists had psychologists training them in ways to get others to respond. The NAACP put the students through intensive preparation. Do you see any ethical or moral difference between the two groups' approaches?
10. What do you think of Link's motives? Do you think he really believes all people are equals? What should the Patillos do? Should Melba's mother try to find another job or should she take Melba out of Central High? Why do you feel that way?
11. What do you think of the idea of using children as "tender warriors?"