



Teaching Guide

SEGMENT 5, WEBISODE 14

Please note: Each segment in this Webisode has its own Teaching Guide



Segment Overview



Let's Discuss

In September 1957, Arkansas Governor Orville Faubus used the Arkansas National Guard to prevent nine black children from entering Central High School in Little Rock. Even though a federal district court ordered him to comply with the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling and allow the students to enroll, Faubus refused to protect the rights of the nine African American students. Finally, President Eisenhower, who had remained silent on civil rights, intervened rather than see federal laws flouted under the guise of states' rights. He sent one thousand paratroopers to Little Rock and took direct command of the state guard. The troops stayed in Little Rock for the remainder of the school year—the first deployment of federal troops in the south since Reconstruction.

Teacher Directions

1. Ask the students the following questions.

- Why did Melba Pattillo Beals want to attend Central High School?
- What role did President Eisenhower play?
- What measures were necessary for the Little Rock Nine to attend Central High?

2. Make sure students understand the following points in discussing the questions.

Melba Pattillo Beals wanted to attend Central High School because she wanted a good education at one of the best schools in the country. President Eisenhower called in the National Guard and sent the 101st Airborne Division to enforce integration of Central High. He did this in part because the news coverage of Little Rock made citizens across the nation feel indignant and horrified. Also, he could not allow the argument of states' rights to overrule federal law. The army had to escort the students into the school through angry mobs and had to protect them through the school year.



History Sleuth

Teacher Directions

1. Use the website: <http://teacher.scholastic.com> to read an interview with Melba Pattillo Beals. Tell the students that in 1998 and 1999 Melba Pattillo Beals answered questions from students about her experiences at Central High in 1957. Read the questions and Ms. Beale's responses.
2. Discuss the following questions with students.
 - What gave Melba Pattillo Beals courage in the face of real physical danger and verbal attack?
 - How does her attitude agree with the nonviolent spirit that Dr. King supported for the civil rights movement?



What do you Think?

Teacher Directions

1. Show students photographs of the crowds outside Central High School in Little Rock in September 1957. A good source is The Integration of Little Rock Central High School @ <http://www.journalism.indiana.edu/gallery/faculty/counts/integration.html>
2. Discuss with the students the extraordinary courage of the nine African American students of Little Rock.
3. Students write a brief journal entry answering the question: How do you think you would act in a similar situation?



Moving Toward Freedom

Teacher Directions

1. Inform the students that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (N.A.A.C.P.) called for volunteers to integrate Central High. They hoped to get one hundred African American students. They got only nine volunteers.
2. Students research one of the Little Rock Nine to discover what happened to them and what they are doing today. In addition to Melba Pattillo Beals, they include Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls Lanier, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed-Wair, Minnijean Brown Trickey, and Ernest Green.
3. Some good internet sources include The Little Rock Nine @ http://www.centralhigh57.org/The_Little_Rock_Nine.html, and CNN @ <http://www.cnn.com/US/9911/09/little.rock.nine.02/>.
4. Students share their findings with the entire class.
5. The students discuss the following questions.

- What occupations did the Little Rock Nine enter?
- Could they have pursued these careers without a good education?
- Was Melba Pattillo Beals correct that a good education would give her and her fellow African American students a better opportunity to succeed in life?
- How did education help the Little Rock Nine and all the African Americans who benefited from integrated schools to move toward freedom?

Note to the Teacher: If Internet access is not available, students may use other sources or share with them the following information.

Melba Pattillo Beals has written two books: *White is a State of Mind* tells about her experiences living in a white family in California in 1959, and *Warriors Don't Cry* about the civil rights movement and her experience in Little Rock. She has also worked as a broadcast journalist for NBC and a journalist for *People* magazine. She lives in Sausalito, California.

Elizabeth Eckford had a career in the United States Army that included work as a journalist. She now works part-time as a social worker and is the mother of two sons. In 1974, she returned to Little Rock to live in the home in which she grew up.

Jefferson Thomas graduated from Central High in 1960. He became an accountant and works with the United States Department of Defense. He lives in Anaheim, California.

Terrence Roberts moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1958, and he finished high school there. He earned a Ph.D. and now teaches at the University of California at Los Angeles and Antioch College. Dr. Roberts is also a clinical psychologist.

Carlotta Walls Lanier graduated from Central High in 1960 and from Michigan State University. She now works in real estate and lives in Englewood, Colorado.

Gloria Ray Karlmark graduated from Illinois Technical College and earned a post-graduate degree in Stockholm, Sweden. Her career included publishing successful magazines in thirty-nine countries and working as a computer science writer. In her retirement she divides her time between homes in Amsterdam and Sweden.

Thelma Mothershed-Wair after graduating from college had a teaching career. She now volunteers in a program for abused women in Belleville, Illinois, where she lives.

Minnijean Brown Trickey fought back at her tormenters. When she dumped a bowl of chili on the head of a student in the school cafeteria, she was expelled in February 1958.

During the Vietnam War protests, she moved to Canada with her husband. She is a writer and social worker in Ontario.

Moving Toward Freedom,
Continued.



Connections

Ernest Green became the first black student to graduate from Central High in 1958. After graduating from Michigan State University, he served as Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Affairs under President Jimmy Carter. He currently is a managing partner and vice president of Lehman Brothers in Washington, D.C.

Teacher Directions

Use the following activities with your students.

Language Arts — Students read books by and about the Little Rock Nine. Some possibilities include “The Little Rock Nine: Ernest Green” from *Freedom’s Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories* by Ellen Levine (Avon Books); *The Girl on the Outside* by Mildred Pitts Walter (Scholastic); *Witnesses To Freedom: Young People Who Fought for Civil Rights* by Belinda Rochelle (Lodestar Books); *Cracking the Wall: The Story of the Little Rock Nine* by Eileen Lucas (Carolrhoda Books).

Local History — Students interview someone who remembers the pivotal events of the civil rights movement and write a summary of that person’s experiences. How did the interviewee feel during this time? How did the movement affect his or her daily life? Was he or she involved in the movement in any way?

Art — Students examine the art of Jasper Johns, who pioneered Pop Art in the 1950s. Students create their own work in the style of Johns.

Technology/Library — Students use the Internet to research the life of Carter G. Woodson, the founder of Black History Month.

Visual Arts — Students view and discuss the Norman Rockwell print depicting the integration of Central Rock High School in Little Rock. What message is the artist communicating? How does he make his point?