

Warriors Don't Cry

Writing Assignment – 2009

Guidelines:

1. Each student must write a two-page paper based upon one of the choices below.
2. Label the paper in the upper right hand corner with the following information:

Name	Example:	Jane Doe
Grade Level		11 th Grade
Choice Number		Choice F
3. The paper should be typed (double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 font) and proofread with correct grammar and spelling.
4. Include an introduction paragraph, body (at least 3 paragraphs), and conclusion paragraph. A paragraph contains a minimum of 4 sentences.
5. Be sure to cite specific examples from the book and include a reference to the page number in parentheses after the example.

Example: Melba turns to God in her diary and tells him the events of her day. One particular day she describes being pushed and shoved in the hallway (103).
6. The paper is due by Friday, August 28th and will be turned in to your family group teacher at chapel.
7. The paper will be graded and applied to the 1st Quarter English grade of each student.
8. Questions? Contact Mrs. Klamer at 989-798-7188 or Dr. Meyers at 989-790-1676.

Choices: [9th and 10th graders choose from A, B, C or D (advanced writers may select from all 8);
11th and 12th graders must choose from E, F, G or H]

- A. "Nothing is gained without true sacrifice." Discuss this quote as it pertains to Melba's year in Central High School. What is actually gained? What is lost? Include examples from the book that show what Melba gained and lost and also what others (adults, school, country, government, etc.) may have gained and/or lost.
- B. Why does Melba raise her hand and volunteer to attend Central High School? What circumstances led up to this decision? Does Melba regret her choice? Cite examples from the book to support your position.
- C. In the course of one short year, Melba makes the transition from an innocent teenager to a "hardened warrior." Document the steps that lead to the transition and give specific experiences from the book that are responsible for those changes. What are the qualities of a warrior that Melba is showing by the end of her year at Central High School?
- D. Melba continues to find herself having to "go it alone" and face the challenges of her situation without much help or support. Identify at least 4 different sets of circumstances where Melba was feeling alone. Cite specific examples from the book. Is she surprised that she is alone? What does she do when she comes to this conclusion?
- E. Fear is a common emotion found in the characters of Warriors Don't Cry. Some fears are openly admitted while others are hidden. Identify both types of fears for at least 8 of the characters in the book. Include both white and African-American characters. Give specific examples in the book that show the open/hidden fears.
- F. Melba writes, "Black folks aren't born expecting segregation...Instead the humiliating expectations and traditions of segregations creep over you slowly stealing a teaspoonful of your self-esteem each day." How do the "humiliating expectations and traditions of segregation" shape the attitudes and actions of the adults in Melba's family? What lessons has Melba learned about segregation by observing the adults? Cite specific example of the book to support your position.
- G. Using only this book as a resource, what can you tell about race relations in the 1950's? Cite specific clues from the book that led to your conclusions. What similarities/differences in race relations can you see in our country today?
- H. Assess the book as a primary source (a first-hand account of events written by someone who witnessed or participate in the events). What are its strengths and weaknesses? All authors write with some degree of personal bias. What are the author biases of Melba that the reader should take into consideration? Cite examples from the book to support your position.