

## illuminating Literature: *Warriors Don't Cry* Chapters 20-28, Melba's Journal

Look for these 12 entries Melba wrote in her prayer journal and write in the page number on which you find each entry. You will find these in the last third of the memoir. Then, write the context of the journal entry on the line below the quote.

- Please, God, let me learn how to stop being a warrior. Sometimes I just need to be a girl.  
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- Please, God, won't you allow Minnijean to come back to school just this once. I promise I'll help her be stronger.  
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- God, please let me be dead until the end of the year.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Can they really be treating me this way imply because I am brown, that's all.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I think only the warrior exists in me now. Melba went away to hide. She was too frightened to stay here.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I pray Minnijean will be happy. She deserves it...don't we all?  
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- I must have time to figure out why life is like this for me.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- It made me feel like my people are supporting me.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Had I fallen down those thirty or so stone steps, I would have hurt myself or even been killed. They tried hard enough...that's for sure.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Do you hear me, God?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I am happy today, but I am also frightened. The appointment of Lemley means we have to pray hard.  
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- Dear God, please walk with Ernie in the graduation line at Central. Let him be safe.  
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