

illuminating Literature: *Warriors Don't Cry* Chapters 1-9

Group Questions:

Intro: How did the author remember what happened in 1957 if she didn't write the book until 35 years later? What happened in 1987? Who was the governor in 1987? Who is Derrick Nobel and why does she mention him?

Chapter 1: Describe her birth.

Chapter 2: As a young child, with whom did she live? Describe these people.

Chapter 3: Who is Marissa and why is she important? Describe Cincinnati.

Chapter 4: Who is Daisy Bates? What are the families of the 9 kids like? Who is Auntie Mae? What did Central High look like?

Chapter 5: Why were so many cars on her street? Which student was cornered by the mom? Why did her mom slap her?

Chapter 6: Who helped Elizabeth? Why is Melba sworn to silence? Why does she have "a good cry"? Who is Vince and what is his role?

Chapter 7: Why does Grandma India hang a picture of sheep? Why do the neighbors bring them food? What does her father do that surprises her?

Chapter 8: What's happening at Marsha's house? Why can't Melba go to the wrestling match? What does Vince ask her after church? How do "the nine" keep up their studies?

Chapter 9: In court, why do Faubus' lawyers leave? Why did the kids downplay the violence on the 1st day of school? What is going to happen on Monday?

WWGIS (What Would Grandma India Say?)—Find that quote!

Grandma India is quoted in almost every chapter of this memoir. She talks about God, she talks about baths, she talks about umbrellas—so many things!

Find these memorable Grandma India quotes from the first third of the novel and highlight them, jotting down the page number next to each quote below. These quotes will help you to trace the support Melba receives from this special family member.

- “Now you see, that’s the reason God spared your life. You’re supposed to carry this banner for our people.”
- “Always, child, but remember, it’s His schedule, not yours. His good will come when you least expect it.”
- “Be patient, our people’s turn will come. You’ll see. Your lifetime will be different from mine...”
- “Now you soak a while, child. When the water goes down the drain, it will take away all that white man’s evil with it.”
- “Maybe our children getting a good education is much more important than your job.”
- “God hears you talking this way,”
- “God is always with you,”
- “One little setback—and you want out,” “Naw, you’re not a quitter.”
- “You’ll make this your last cry. You’re a warrior on the battlefield for your Lord. God’s warriors don’t cry, ‘cause they trust that he’s always by their side.”
- “There, you see. I always liked the sheep in that picture. Their faces are smiling out at us from a heavenly pasture.”
- “Shut your mouth, Will Patillo! Don’t make this child doubt her good deed,”
- “Well, don’t just stand there, child, help me find my parasol.”
- “Church is the life’s blood of our folks’ community.”
- “All right. To life without all this ugliness. Maybe now things will quiet down and get back to normal.”