

This is a long book and I wanted to offer a variety of flexible writing options for it. The first three topics are my own suggestions and the last two come from the student workbook pg. 186. Read through all of these carefully, as the first 3 require that you start writing as soon as you start reading through the book and the last two can be saved for “paper week” on the syllabus.

Novel Notebook Option: This is a long book and our only work of non-fiction. Because of that, you are only required to do 1/3 of the Novel Notebook as homework. If you enjoy the Novel Notebook activities, you may choose (rather than writing a formal paper) to complete the entire Novel Notebook. It is a lot of writing to complete while you're reading along, but it gives you the “paper week” off and is less formal. **There will be a special 20 point grading rubric for this assignment based on completing the work, neatness, and good grammar/vocabulary work.**

Prayer Journal: Throughout the novel, Melba writes letters to God about her feelings, her faith, and her experiences. You may write your own prayer journal as you are reading through the novel about your own life, or how you are feeling when you are reading this book (sort of a “reader response” addressed to God). This book will bring up a lot of questions for a lot of you and, as Melba's grandma would say, “Good. It's time you started keeping a diary so's you can write down these thoughts and share them with me sometimes, but mostly keep them to yourself and tell God.” (pg. 11) You need to write a minimum of 20 entries. **This will be a parent-graded option. Your parents may decide to read your work, or allow you to self-grade. It will not be graded by the grading team. Each day you write is worth 1 point.**

“God Moments” (Non-fiction/Opinion): Melba experiences many “God moments” throughout the novel. In an essay of 350-500 words, report on some of these and explain how you feel she used them to get through her experiences with integration. If you quote from the novel, make sure to do so correctly. This will be graded similar to a non-fiction paper.

History Buff (Nonfiction): Little Rock, Arkansas, is not the only town in the United States that had integration problems. Research other towns and what happened there during this important time period. Where their experiences similar, better, or worse than Little Rock's? Write a 350-500 word report about what you find. **PLEASE make sure to document your resources in a Works Cited page!**

Be the Author(Fiction): Write a short story in which certain people are discriminated against for something arbitrary—people who wear glasses vs. people who don't, people with red hair vs. non-redheads, left-handers vs. right, etc. How does the minority group cope? Gain respect? Gain equality (if ever)?

Grading—The last 3 topics will be graded on 20 points. Please read this grading rubric before you write your paper! *Let's Eat Fifi!* should be your guide to grammar!

Yes	Somewhat	NO	Content (10 points—graded by Mrs. Birtz):
2	1	0	Did the student follow the assignment directions?
2	1	0	Is the paper well-organized (if fiction—beginning, middle, end/ non-fiction intro., support par., conclusion & works cited page)
2	1	0	Does the paper stick to the chosen topic?
2	1	0	Is there something interesting/unique about the paper (does it hold the reader's attention)?
2	1	0	Does the student demonstrate good use of vocabulary appropriate for the story's theme?
Yes	Somewhat	NO	Grammar (10 points—grade/comments by the HS Literature team):
2	1	0	Is the paper double-spaced and in 12 point font?
2	1	0	Are the paragraph breaks appropriate and are sentence lengths varied?
2	1	0	Is the spelling, capitalization, and end punctuation correct? (0-2 errors 2 pts., 3-4 errors 1 pt., 5+ 0 pts.)
2	1	0	Is punctuation within quotation marks used correctly? (0-2 errors 2 pts., 3-4 errors 1 pt., 5+ 0 pts.)

2 1 0 Is the active voice used most often? (0-1 error 2 pts., 2-3 errors 1 pt., 4+ 0 pts.)