

Summer 2016



Dear Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Parents,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing our students with a challenging and rewarding curriculum, the Johnston Middle School Language Arts Department has created a summer reading program. We believe summer reading will enrich students and create a strong foundation for the reading and writing we will be doing during the upcoming school year. This summer we are asking ALL students to read **two** books.

**1.** Since much of the seventh grade year is spent working on writing personal narratives, the seventh grade reading teachers have made the memoir *Warriors Don't Cry* by Melba Patillo Beals required reading. This book recounts the author's experiences as one of the nine teenagers who integrated Arkansas' Little Rock High School in 1957.

Please note that while there is an adult version of this memoir, we are suggesting that students read the **abridged young adult version**. Students should complete the study guide provided for this text, which is available on the JMS website: [www.houstonisd.org/johnston](http://www.houstonisd.org/johnston). The study guide will be due at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, themes from this book will be incorporated into a beginning of the year writing assignment and tests in both reading and writing classes.

**2.** Students should also read one book from the list below.

*Crash* by Jerry Spenelli

*The Search for Delicious* by Natalie Babbitt

*Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card

*The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*Dragon's Bait* by Vivian Vande Velde

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Red Queen* by Victoria Aveyard

*Wolfreider* by Avi

*Savy* by Ingrid Law

Students should complete the following assignment from one of the above books. Create a postcard about the book to send to their reading teacher during the summer. We suggest students use a 5 x 8 index card. They should illustrate one side of the postcard in a way that reflects the book. On the back side, they should choose one of the following questions and answer it using well-written, multi-sentence, developed paragraph:

1. Pick a major character in the book and describe how he or she changed throughout the novel. Would you have made a different set of decisions than this character?
2. What is the major conflict in this novel? Compare and contrast this conflict to a conflict you have read or heard about in the news.

**Postcards should be mailed by August 2 to**

**Johnston Middle School  
10410 Manhattan Street  
Houston, TX 77096**

House J students send postcards in care of Ms. Bates.

House M students send postcards in care of Ms. Berry.

House S students send postcards in care of Ms. Beaubrun.

House G students send postcards in care of Mr. Lerner.

We recognize that many of our students are cross-housed, but teachers will ensure that the postcards make it to the proper teacher once school begins.

*If you have any questions about the summer reading program, please don't hesitate to contact us via E-mail. We hope this experience will be a valuable and enjoyable one for your child.*

Sincerely,

**Amanda Bates**

House J

abates2@houstonisd.org

**Lenena Berry**

House M

lberry1@houstonisd.org

**Derilia Beaubrun**

House S

dbeaubru@houstonisd.org

**Russell Lerner**

House G

rlerner@houstonisd.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Reading Assignment

Study guide due, September 22/23, 2016. NO EXPECTATIONS!



### ***Warriors Don't Cry***

By Melba Pattillo Beals

1. Write, edit, and revise a complete summary of the novel. Attach the rough draft and a final, typed copy to the end of this study guide.

2. When Melba was born, her scalp was injured and she got an infection. A doctor put in a drainage tube to get the infection out. Why didn't her health improve immediately? What happened?

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How do you feel about this? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which words describe Melba's grandmother?

Determined

Intelligent

Wresting fan

Religious / Spiritual

Well-read

Protective

4. Describe Melba:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

5. Research and explain the *Brown vs. Board of Education* court case.

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Using information from the book, describe the other members of the Little Rock Nine. Record the page number.

6. Ernest Green: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Terrence Roberts: \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Jefferson Thomas: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Elizabeth Eckford: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Thelma Mothershed: \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Minnijean Brown: \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Carlotta Walls: \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Gloria Ray: \_\_\_\_\_

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14. What was Governor Orval Faubus' view of integration? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Why did Melba sign up to go to Central High School? \_\_\_\_\_

16. When Melba signed up to go to Central High School, did she expect the experience she got? Explain your answer.

17. Who was Danny? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What do you think Danny's feelings were about the job he was assigned to do? Do you think he was for or against integration? Was he sympathetic or indifferent to Melba's situation? Support your answer with a sentence from the book.

19. Who was Link? \_\_\_\_\_

20. What event from Link's background made him more open to African-American students being at Central High School?

21. What was Link's conflict? \_\_\_\_\_

22. Melba experienced inner and outer turmoil during the 1957-58 school year. The outer turmoil was obvious. Explain her inner turmoil.

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**23.** Why didn't Melba spend her senior year at Central High School?

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**24.** Predict what would have happened if Melba had gone to Central for the 1958-59 school year.

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**25.** During her year at Central High School, what do you think Melba learned about herself?

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**26.** In your opinion, was Melba's experience worth the costs? Explain your answer.

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**27.** If you were an African-American student in 1957 living in Little Rock, Arkansas, would you have volunteered to integrate Central High School? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

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**28.** Each day Melba had to make important decisions about how she would conduct herself. Knowing how Melba handled herself, what things would you have done the same?

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**29.** What things would you have done differently?

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**30.** How long do you think you would have stayed enrolled at Central High School and endured the treatment she received? Explain your answer.

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**31.** Why is the book called *Warriors Don't Cry*? Identify a place in the story where Melba hears this mantra.

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**32.** Do you think the title fits this book? Why or why not?

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**33.** What would you like to share with me about the book?

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34. Illustrate a scene from the book. Be neat and use color. No stick people!



Explain your scene.

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