

How to print this booklet

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Paper size	US Letter (8.5 × 11 in)
Orientation	Landscape
Print on both sides	On (two-sided / duplex)
Flip on	Short edge
Scale	100% / Actual size — not “Fit to page”
Pages	All

THEN

1. Take the whole stack out of the printer. Keep the sheets in order.
2. Fold the stack in half, so this page is on the outside.
3. Staple twice along the fold.



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Reading Journal

My thoughts, chapter by chapter

Reader:

Book Title:

Warriors Don't Cry

Author:

Melba Pattillo Beals

Date Started:

Date Finished:

Keep reading. Keep wondering.
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How to Answer

Your answer does not have to be perfect. Just answer in complete thoughts and use details from the chapter.

How to structure your answer

A strong answer usually has a few parts. Try these steps:

1. **Answer the question.** Start with one sentence that answers the question directly.
2. **Give an example.** Add a detail or moment from the chapter that shows what you mean.
3. **Explain why.** Tell why it mattered, or how it made you think or feel.
4. **Wrap it up.** Finish with a closing thought, a question, or a prediction.

Grandma India tells Melba that warriors do not cry. What do you think she means by this, and how does her advice help Melba?

Example answer: I think Grandma India means that a warrior keeps going even when life is painful and unfair. She is not saying Melba can never feel sad. She is teaching her to stay strong and not let cruel people control her. This advice helps Melba remember that she has courage inside her.

How to Answer (continued)

What changes when federal soldiers come to Little Rock? How do the soldiers help Melba, and what problems still remain?

Example answer: When the federal soldiers come, Melba is finally able to enter Central High more safely. The soldiers protect her from some of the angry people who want to hurt her. Still, they cannot make all the students treat her kindly. Melba is inside the school, but she still has to face bullying and fear every day.

How does Link's choice to help Melba challenge what others expect from him? What might his actions teach readers about doing the right thing?

Example answer: Link is a white student, so many people might expect him to follow the crowd and stay against Melba. Instead, he chooses to warn her and help her. I think this shows that people can decide for themselves what is right, even when their friends or family disagree. His actions teach me that doing the right thing can be scary but important.

Chapter 1

What do you learn about Melba, her family, and the world she is born into in Chapter 1? How do these details help you understand her story?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 18

After reading the final chapter, what do you think is the main message of Warriors Don't Cry? How can that message matter to readers today?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 17

By the end of the school year, how have Melba and the other students changed? What have they proved to themselves and to others?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 2

Grandma India tells Melba that warriors do not cry. What do you think she means by this, and how does her advice help Melba?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 3

In this chapter, Melba begins to think about what it might mean to attend Central High School. What are her hopes, and what worries might she have?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 16

How does Link’s choice to help Melba challenge what others expect from him? What might his actions teach readers about doing the right thing?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 15

Find a strong word or phrase from this chapter that shows fear, courage, or unfairness. What does it mean, and why did the author choose it?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 4

How do Melba’s family members react to the idea of her helping to integrate Central High? What does this show about the risks they understand?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 5

When Melba and the other Black students try to enter Central High, what keeps them from going in? How does this moment show unfairness?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 14

What does Melba lose from her normal teenage life because of integration? Why are these losses important to notice?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 13

Melba sometimes feels angry and tired of being hurt. Do you think it is harder to be brave when you are angry? Explain your thinking.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 6

How do crowds, newspapers, and leaders affect what happens to Melba and the other students in this chapter?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 7

What changes when federal soldiers come to Little Rock? How do the soldiers help Melba, and what problems still remain?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 12

Minnijean faces unfair treatment at school. How does her experience help you understand the larger injustice faced by the Little Rock Nine?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 11

Choose one difficult event Melba faces in this chapter. How does she respond, and what does her response reveal about her character?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 8

Describe Danny, the soldier who protects Melba. What kind of person does he seem to be, and why is he important to her?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 9

Melba has to keep learning while other students mistreat her. What does this show about her strength and her goals?

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?

Chapter 10

How does Melba’s experience at Central High affect her life at home with her family? Give examples of changes or sacrifices.

New word I learned:

What do you think it means?
