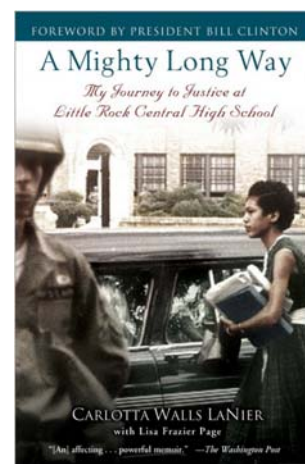


FHCWM Book Club Questions

A Mighty Long Way: The Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School by Carlotta Walls LaNier

When fourteen-year-old Carlotta Walls walked up the stairs of Little Rock Central High School on September 25, 1957, she and eight other black students only wanted to make it to class. But the journey of the “Little Rock Nine,” as they came to be known, would lead the nation on an even longer and much more turbulent path, one that would challenge prevailing attitudes, break down barriers, and forever change the landscape of America.



1. What did you learn that surprised you? Were you familiar with most of the history and events presented in the book?
2. What do you think motivated Carlotta to sign the piece of paper her teacher circulated at Dunbar to sign up for Central? Were you surprised that it was never discussed by the family?
3. Were you surprised by the lengths Governor Faubus went to as he tried to maintain segregation in the schools?
4. How did you feel about what Carlotta and the other students experienced once they were inside Central?
5. How did you feel about the way the story of the nine students was portrayed in the national media?
6. How do you think you would have handled being in her shoes? What do you think you have done differently?
7. How did Carlotta's parents and grandparents influence her life and the choices she made? Do you think that her their abilities to buy homes, which was unusual at the time, had an impact on the family's future?
8. Why do you think Carlotta never spoke of her experiences for 30 years? Never discussed it with her mother and only told her children when she had to?
9. What kinds of fair housing issues or barriers to housing choice did you see? What are some of the systemic barriers, issues or implications presented in the book?
10. If you could ask Mrs. Walls LaNier a question, what would it be?

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Opening Doors to Housing Choice

