Warriors Don’t Cry
Author: Melba Patillo Beals

In 1957, well before Martin Luther King’s "I Have a Dream" speech, Melba Patillo Beals and eight other teenagers became iconic symbols for the Civil Rights Movement and the dismantling of the Jim Crow laws in the American South as they integrated Little Rock’s Central High School in the wake of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court ruling, Brown v. Board of Education. This ruling brought the promise of integration to Little Rock, Arkansas, but it was hard-won for the nine Black teenagers chosen to integrate Central High School in 1957.

Students at Somerville High School are required to read Warriors Don’t Cry and at least one additional book of his/her choice. Suggestions for the self-selected reading choice appear below:

10th Grade Suggested Additional Readings

Grade 10: Suggested Additional Readings (Optional)
- 90 Minutes in Heaven by Don Piper
- A False Spring by Pat Jordan
- A Yellow Raft in Blue Water by Michael Dorris
- Nineteen Minutes by Jodi Picoult
- The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
- The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon by Stephen King
- World War Z by Max Brooks
- Eyes on the Prize by Juan Williams
- Or a book of your choice selected from a current or past best seller list.

Suggestions for more challenging readings (Optional)
- Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
- Ethan Frome by Edith Wharton
- Giving by Bill Clinton
- His Excellency: George Washington by Joseph J. Ellis
- On Writing by Stephen King
- Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
- The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
- Wicked Years (series) by Gregory Maguire

Honors level classes in grade 10 receive additional summer reading requirements.

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