

**Name:**

## Day One

# The Little Rock Nine

### Part 1: Silent read

→ Some people weren't happy when Black and White students started attending school together. Read silently.

"It was a roar of hatred, and just thinking about it makes me shake." Minnijean Brown Trickey is remembering an event. It happened over sixty years ago. On September 23, 1957, Trickey stood in front of Central High, an all-White school. Trickey was with eight other Black students. An angry White mob yelled racist insults at them. U.S. troops led Trickey and the other Black students up the school steps. It was three weeks into the school year in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Black students were called the Little Rock Nine. They should have been allowed to go to the first day of school. The law said that Black students and White students could attend the same schools. But when the nine newcomers arrived the first day, the National Guard didn't let them enter. The governor didn't want Black students to go to the White school.

President Eisenhower got involved. Three weeks later, 1,200 soldiers arrived in Little Rock. They went with the Black students into the school. They broke up the angry mob of bystanders. Troops stayed at Central High for the rest of the year. However, they didn't go with the teenage students into their classrooms. Every day the Little Rock Nine put up with hatred from their White classmates. They were teased. They were assaulted. They were spat on.

"It's the going back: that's the bravery, that's the courage," Trickey reflects. "It's the going home and saying: 'Wow, they're not stopping me, I'll go back no matter what.'"

Source: "Little Rock Nine: The Day Young Students Shattered Racial Segregation," *The Guardian*, September 24, 2017.



## Day One

// one minute

# The Little Rock Nine

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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“It’s the going back: that’s the bravery, that’s the courage,” Trickey reflects. “It’s the going home and saying: ‘Wow, they’re not stopping me, I’ll go back no matter what.’”

### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why did the Little Rock Nine have to put up with hatred?

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Who stopped the Little Rock Nine from entering the school on the first day?

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## Day One

# The Little Rock Nine

### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

“It was a roar of hatred, / and just thinking about it / makes me shake.” // Minnijean Brown Trickey / is remembering an event. // It happened over sixty years ago. // On September 23, / 1957, / Trickey stood in front of Central High, / an all-White school. // Trickey was with eight other Black students. // An angry White mob / yelled racist insults at them. // U.S. troops led Trickey / and the other Black students / up the school steps. // It was three weeks into the school year / in Little Rock, / Arkansas. //

The Black students were called / the Little Rock Nine. // They should have been allowed / to go to the first day of school. // The law said / that Black students and White students / could attend the same schools. // But when the nine newcomers arrived the first day, / the National Guard didn’t let them enter. // The governor didn’t want Black students / to go to the White school. //

President Eisenhower got involved. // Three weeks later, / 1,200 soldiers arrived in Little Rock. // They went with the Black students / into the school. // They broke up the angry mob of bystanders. // Troops stayed at Central High / for the rest of the year. // However, / they didn’t go with the teenage students / into their classrooms. // Every day / the Little Rock Nine put up with hatred / from their White classmates. // They were teased. // They were assaulted. // They were spat on. //

“It’s the going back: / that’s the bravery, / that’s the courage,” / Trickey reflects. // “It’s the going home and saying: / Wow, / they’re not stopping me, / I’ll go back no matter what.” //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.