

Name:

Day One

African Americans and the Iraq War

Part 1: Silent read

➔ How did African Americans feel about the Iraq War? Read silently.

Eugene Puryear was fifteen when the Iraq War began. Eugene is African American. He had always seen the military as a good career. Family members had served. But after two years of fighting, Eugene was upset. He started a protest at his high school. Eugene and other students argued that the war was only helping rich people. After graduation, Eugene earned a college degree. He did not volunteer for the military.

Surveys showed more than half of African Americans opposed the Iraq War. Many thought too many American troops were dying. People worried that the war was dragging on.

The high cost of the war was a concern as well. Money spent on the war could have gone to support schools or other services. All these feelings affected enlistment. Soon after the Iraq War began, military service lost its appeal. Fewer and fewer African Americans were recruited.

Some African Americans supported the war. Some enlisted, having faith in the military, even if they had doubts about the war. Lieutenant Alfeia Goodwin is an African American veteran. She served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004. She does not regret her time there. She is proud that she served. “I looked at it as an American experience,” she told *PBS News* in 2007. She said soldiers can disagree with a war and still serve with honor in the military. “We separate the Army from the war,” she said.

Source: “Iraq War impacts enrollment of Blacks in military,” *PBS Online NewsHour*, August 2, 2007.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did many African Americans feel about the Iraq War?

Why was the high cost of the war a problem?

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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.

Eugene Puryear was fifteen / when the Iraq War began. // Eugene is African American. // He had always seen the military / as a good career. // Family members had served. // But after two years of fighting, / Eugene was upset. // He started a protest at his high school. // Eugene and other students argued / that the war was only helping rich people. // After graduation, / Eugene earned a college degree. // He did not volunteer for the military. //

Surveys showed more than half of African Americans / opposed the Iraq War. // Many thought too many American troops were dying. // People worried that the war was dragging on. //

The high cost of the war was a concern / as well. // Money spent on the war / could have gone to support schools / or other services. // All these feelings affected enlistment. // Soon after the Iraq War began, / military service lost its appeal. // Fewer and fewer African Americans were recruited. //

Some African Americans supported the war. // Some enlisted, / having faith in the military, / even if they had doubts about the war. // Lieutenant Alfeia Goodwin is an African American veteran. // She served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004. // She does not regret her time there. // She is proud that she served. // “I looked at it as an American experience,” / she told *PBS News* in 2007. // She said soldiers can disagree with a war / and still serve with honor in the military. // “We separate the Army from the war,” / she said. //

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