

**Characterization** Rest of Ch. 8 (from last ¶ p. 95) and Ch. 9

Read aloud pp. 95-97, to Danny's line, "If you need me, holler."

Students in small groups will discuss their impressions so far of Melba's character. In this type of discussion, I list the questions (below) on the overhead.

**In what ways is Melba just a normal teenager? In what ways are her actions heroic? Do her actions seem believable? If not, which ones do not? In which situations would you have reacted similarly? Differently?**

Students will then read the rest of this chapter and the next one independently. The depth of animosity expressed by some of the Central students is truly shocking, so even though students are reading independently, I will give them permission to stop and talk about the text with others as they are reading. To help guide students' reading, give them the graphic organizer "Fleshing out a Character" (Janet Allen) with the suggestion that they look at the requested information, keep it in mind as they read, and then go back after reading to fill in the details. After finishing the book, students may choose to write a character analysis for their interpretive essay.