

Conjecture and Inference—Ch. 13-14

Read aloud Chapter 13 (students read first two paragraphs silently); allow time for some discussion about holiday traditions or favorite holidays and tell students that will be the topic of their journal.

Conjecture If the vast majority of Central High School Students had had a change in attitude and decided to reform, what might their New Year’s resolutions be? Students work in small groups and list specific [not just “be nice”] resolutions of Central students who are determined to change improve the situation for everyone in the school.

Consideration and Self-analysis After students report on resolutions, have them listen to a “What if” list; students do not respond—the questions are meant to prompt introspection

1. What if the principal had walked through the line of Guardsmen on that first day, welcomed the students, and escorted them through the front door of the school?
2. What if some of the white students in the crowd had taken a seat next to Elizabeth Eckford on the bench that day?
3. What if all of the teachers had taken seriously the opportunity they had to teach their students lessons about social justice and the real meaning of constitutional amendments? (Note: according to Daisy Bates’ memoir, some forty teachers were fired because of their pro-integration views, so some of them must have spoken out)
4. What if Sammy Dean Parker and some of the other influential students had welcomed the students with offers of help and friendship?
5. What about you? What if you see a new student in the hall? Is color or appearance the first thing you care about? Do you ever get past that?
6. What if you observe someone bullying, insulting, or making fun of another person? Do you laugh? Ignore it? Join in? Speak up?

Read aloud Chapter 14 to p. 171 “*My mind was somewhere else*”; ask students to be especially aware of Melba’s increased tension in this chapter **NOTE: find poem to connect**; also note Grandma’s way of dealing with Melba’s difficulty

Independent Reading last three pages of chapter; give handout for inferences--Link (Character’s name; play on words with “missing links” or “links” in understanding that inferences provide); keep handout and add to it during remaining chapters

MAKING INFERENCES



Why does Link do the things he does?

Actions

Possible Reason

Textual Evidence