

MOVIE NOTES: Eyes on the Prize – Emmett Till (1955)

1. Who was **Emmett Till** and what happened to him in the summer of 1955?
2. What relation was **Mose Wright** to Emmett Till? His _____.
3. What did **Mamie Till Bradley** do after the murder of her son? How did she ensure that her son's death meant something?
4. What was the impact of Till's murder on African-Americans nationwide? How did people react to the news of his death?
5. The trial took place in Sumner, Mississippi in the summer of 1955. The NAACP and black press worked hard throughout the summer to keep the case in the news to make an example of southern racism.
6. Roy Bryant (the husband of the woman in the store) and J.W. Milam's (her brother-in-law) were charged with murder. What was their defense?
7. Why was Mose Wright decision to testify in the trial so significant and heroic?
8. What was the outcome of the trial?
9. Following the trial, Bryant and Milam were given \$4000 by a reporter to tell their story. In the interview, J.W. Milam claimed that he "had" to kill Till. Why? What error did young Till make?

10. There were _____ lynchings in Mississippi in the 75 years before Till's death.
11. THINK QUESTION: What was significant about Emmett Till's murder? How did it impact other African-Americans and youth especially?

Eyes on the Prize – Integration of Little Rock High School (1957)
--

1. What made Little Rock seem like an ideal test city for the integration of schools?

2. Why did **Governor Orville Faubus** take the stance he did on the integration of Central High School?

3. What did the 8 black students who traveled to school together on the first day experience when they got there?
 - a. What happened to the ninth student, **Elizabeth Eckford**?

Little Rock ultimately put the state and federal govt in conflict. The state was resisting a federal court order and the president's role/responsibility under the Constitution is to enforce federal law.

3. After negotiations between Faubus and Pres. Eisenhower, Faubus removed the national guard. What happened?

4. What action did Eisenhower ultimately have to take to enforce the law in Little Rock?

5. Where were the troops unable to protect the black students?

6. What were the varied reactions of the white students to the integration of Little Rock High School?

7. Who was **Minnie Jean Brown** and why was she expelled from Little Rock High School?

8. **Earnest Green** became the first black student to graduate from Little Rock's Central High School in the spring of 1958. What happened to Little Rock High School the next year?

Other states like Virginia took a similar approach, closing all public schools in the state as a tactic to avoid integrating.

9. How did the federal government respond? How did the issue of civil rights connect to what President Kennedy was trying to do?

MOVIE NOTES: CNN's The Sixties: A Long March to Freedom

1. America was still rigidly racially segregated in the 1960s. List 3 examples of segregation.
2. Who was **James Lawson** and what did he do to support the brewing student movement in Nashville, TN?
3. What did the students who participated in the **lunch counter sit-ins** in Nashville, TN experience?
4. What role did civil rights play in the presidential election of 1960?

