**If We Must Die**

If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursèd lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one death-blow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

Claude McKay

LITTLE ROCK NINE

In your composition notebook, write down the answers to these questions.

1. Why was this show significant for Oprah?
2. President Eisenhauer sent over federal bodyguards to escort the students in school. Did the armed escorts stop what happened to the Little Rock Nine in school? Why or why not?
3. One of the former students said it was “…an atmostphere of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”
4. What did Robin do that was a BOLD act for that time period? What would happen to her?
5. Ann and Gene are ashamed of their high school actions. David came to the show to apologize for what he had done. Do you think they are really sorry? How has their past effected their future?
6. How did the families of these white students cause them to behave the way they did?
7. What is the “GREAT SILENCE?”
8. What have you done in your high school years that you wouldn’t want to face those you’ve done it to? Imagine YOU were on the Oprah Show facing those people in 20 years. What would that be like?
9. Who has “crossed over bridges” for you that has made a way for you to have what you have today?
10. What does Claude McKay’s poem have to do with this event and the Little Rock Nine? Choose a line or two and compare it to the Little Rock Nine and their experiences.