

1 Before you READ

1. Look at the photo on this page. Say what the situation is. Then compare the girl on this page to the statue on the right. Find out who the elderly woman is.
2. Read the captions and pick out information: name of the main character, place, time, what happened in 1957, and in 2005.
3. What do the two adjectives in the title of the text suggest? What topic do you think the document is about?

2 Now READ

For A2+ students Comprehension guidelines. **Workbook**

For B1+ students Answer the following questions.

1. §1 – Describe the scene that Elizabeth remembers. Pick out the words which show that this day is not a good memory.
2. §2 – Give the reason for the people's anger. Pick out the names of two politicians. Say who they are and what their points of view are.
3. §3 – Pick out the dates and say what they correspond to. What change was brought out?
4. §4 – What happened 50 years later? How does Elizabeth Eckford feel about the situation now?

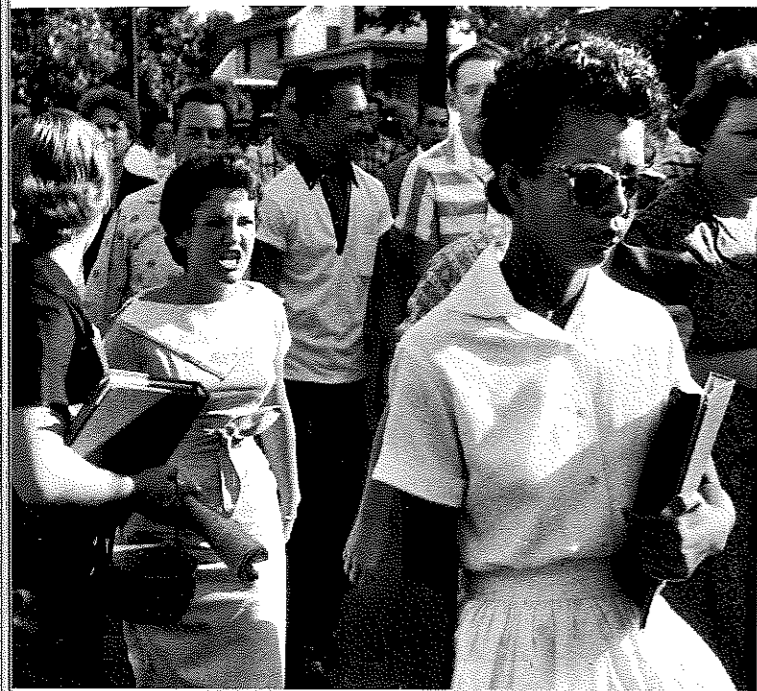
3 After READING

● Compodicto 

1. Listen to our recorded summary.
2. Use the words below to summarize the text.
3. Now close your books and say what you know about Elizabeth Eckford's story. Then listen to our summary and write it down.
  - 1957 – Elizabeth Eckford – enrol – Central – Little Rock, Arkansas
  - 1954 – segregation – illegal – many people – racial integration
  - stopped – entering – school
  - police – protected – saved
  - three weeks – able – attend classes
  - fifty – later – things – better – still – work – be done

● Report

➔ **Workbook** for guidelines.



Little Rock, Arkansas, September 4, 1957  
Elizabeth Eckford was one of the first nine black students to enrol at Central High School, which had always been reserved for white students.

WORDS

1. Choose the right words.
  - a. There were a lot of people at the door. They were ... her. (*threatening / threatened*)
  - b. She felt ... by the people who stopped her. (*threatening / threatened*)
2. Pick out the equivalents for these French words from paragraph 1.  
*hurtaient - crachaient - menaçaient*
3. Put a preposition only if necessary.
  - a. Nine black students enrolled ... Central High.
  - b. Nine black students wanted to attend ... classes at Central High.
  - c. It was a long hard trip ... school.

A Long, Hard Trip to School

Elizabeth Eckford's first day of high school was not ordinary. Though the day took place 50 years ago, she remembers every detail. Students screamed at her as she tried to enter Central High School, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Angry people pushed her down the stairs and spat on her. "People were threatening to kill me," Eckford said. "The police had to protect us. They saved our lives."

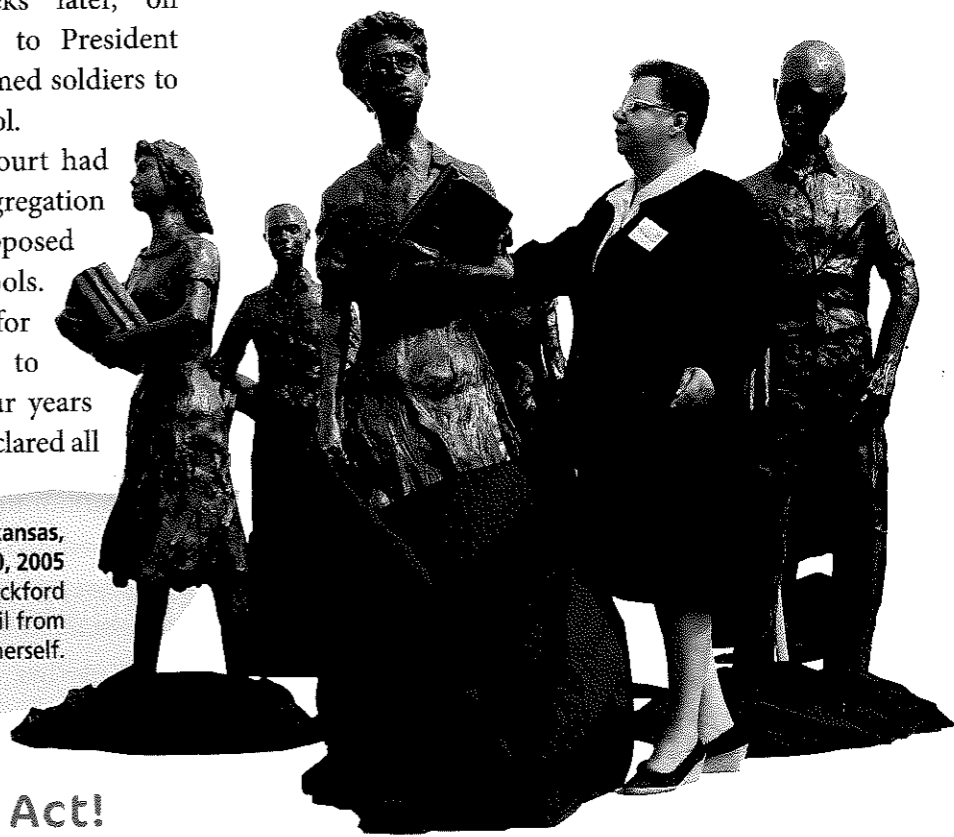
Why all the fury? It was because of Eckford's skin color. She was one of the first nine black students to enrol at Central High. On September 4, 1957, they were stopped at the door of the school by Arkansas Governor, Orval Faubus, who did not want black and white students to attend the same public schools. But the "Little Rock Nine" finally attended classes three weeks later, on September 25, 1957, thanks to President Eisenhower who sent 1,000 armed soldiers to accompany them into the school.

Though the US Supreme Court had declared in 1954 that school segregation was illegal, many people still opposed the racial integration of schools. Actually, it took until 1972 for Little Rock's public schools to become fully integrated – four years after the Supreme Court had declared all

forms of segregation unconstitutional, making it illegal not only in schools but also in businesses, the American military, other civil services and the government.

Fifty years later, Little Rock welcomed back the Little Rock Nine, who defied threats and physical intimidation in their brave quest to study at the all-white school, changing the face of civil rights in America. Elizabeth Eckford was at the ceremony. "We looked back at what happened in 1957, looked at where we are today and talked about what we need to continue to do," she says. "I'm very grateful for the changes that the civil rights movement brought but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Andrea Delbanco,  
TFK World Report, 2007.



Little Rock, Arkansas,  
August 30, 2005  
Elizabeth Eckford  
removes a veil from  
a statue of herself.

Now Act!

Be a radio reporter

Work in pairs. As a radio reporter, you have invited Elizabeth Eckford and you interview her on the radio. The other student is Elizabeth Eckford. Record the interview.

# A Long, Hard Trip to School



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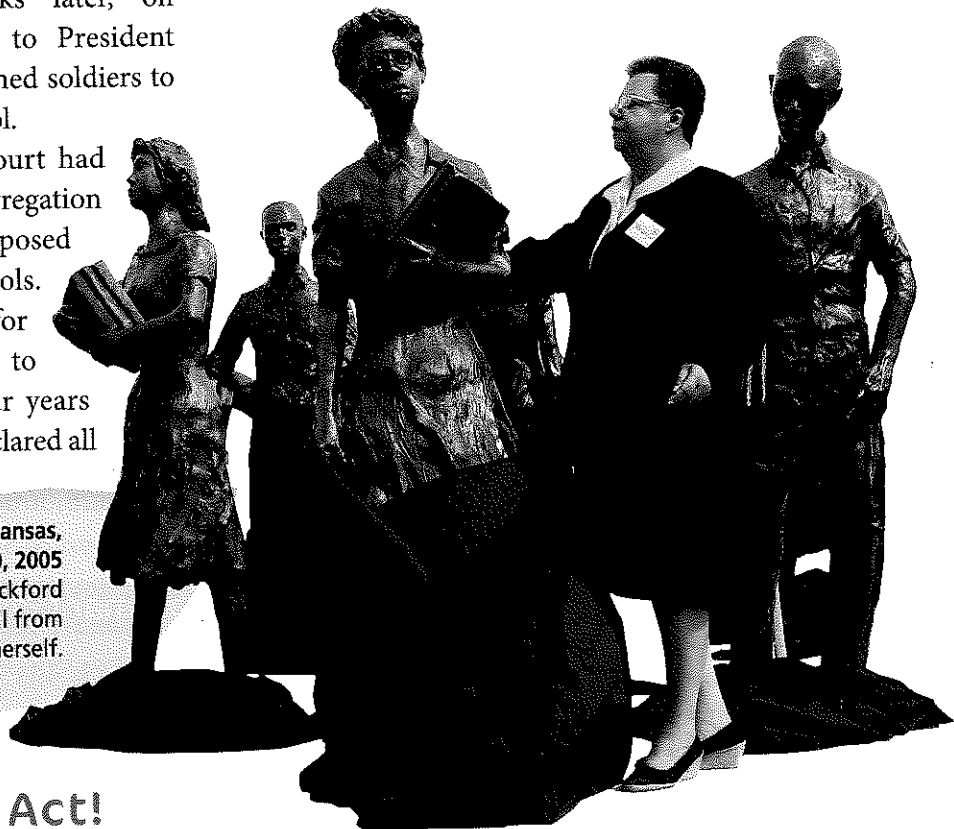
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