"The Little Rock 9" Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Ms. Barry's class with Educational Drama Specialist Mary Beth Bowen Janney Elementary School * Washington, D.C.

GIRL	S Don't let her in! {Gesture}	20	Drink from the same water
BOY	S Get out of here! {Gesture}		fountains.
GIRL	S Go back to where you came	ALL	YOU'RE KIDDING!
	from!		{Gesture}
1	Fifty years ago,	21	Or stay at the same hotels.
2	An angry mob of whites	ALL	THAT'S TERRIBLE!
3	in Little Rock, Arkansas		{Gesture}
4	screamed at a 15-year-old black	1	Oh yeah. I remember what
	girl.		that
5	They were trying to keep her		was called – segregation.
	out	ALL	SEGREGATION {Gesture}
6	of the all-white Central High		THE SEPARATION OF
	School.		BLACKS
7	The name of the black teenage		AND WHITES {Gesture}
	girl was	9	SO UNCOOL. {Gesture}
ALL	ELIZABETH ECKFORD	2	Separate restaurants.
8	She, along with eight other	3	Separate swimming pools
	black students	4	Separate seating on buses,
9	became known as		trains and in movie theatres.
ALL	THE LITTLE ROCK NINE.	5	And worst of all, for black
10	They ended up as heroes		children,
11	in a struggle against	ALL	SEPARATE SCHOOLS.
	segregation.	6	Were the schools for blacks
12	It was a time in America		as good as the white ones?
13	when the entire South was	ALL	NO! {Gesture}
ALL	SEGREGATED	7	The black schools were
14	Hold up! {Gesture}		terrible.
15	What does segregated mean?	8	Many of the black schools
16	I don't know. {Gesture}		had
17	Remember in social studies	9	No indoor plumbing.
	class?	10	No desks.
18	Seeing those photographs with	11	Old textbooks
	signs that said	12	Dilapidated and overcrowded
ALL	WHITES ONLY {Gesture}		buildings.
19	Blacks and whites could not	13	And no school buses.
	use the same bathrooms.	14	Many blacks students had to
ALL	NO WAY! {Gesture}		walk miles to get to school.
		15	But then, in May of 1954

HAPPENS! {Gesture} The US Supreme Court rules that 17 segregated public schools 18 violate the rights 19 of black students. 20 The case is called BROWN VERSUS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. 21 And the Court orders that ALL ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS MUST BE INTEGRATED! Gesture} 1 That means blacks and whites will go to the ALL SAME PUBLIC SCHOOLS. 2 But many whites in the south resist integration. 3 So the southern schools stay segregated. 4 But then, a civil rights group called the N-double-A-C-P integration law. 7 The N-double A-C-P 8 recruits black students in Little Rock, Arkansas, in Little Rock, Nine arrive, black students - and parents - the Little Rock Nine arrive, in th	ALL	SOMETHING GOOD	19	to arrive at the school together.
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16 It's the first day of school 20 sends US Army soldiers			19	
·		-		_
		•		•
	17	for the Little Rock Nine.	21	to escort the black students
The plan - was for all nine into the school.	18	_		
black students ALL THEY DID IT! {Gesture}				

From the web site of Educational Drama Specialist Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn * www.rosalindflynn.com

- But even though the Little Rock 9
- 2 had succeeded in *integrating* the school...
- 3 the real torture was *just* beginning.
- 4 Many white students began to *torment* the black students,
- 5 hoping to drive them out of the school.
- 6 And even though each black student
- 7 had a US army soldier for protection,
- 8 provided by President Eisenhower,
- 9 the Army soldiers were reluctant bodyguards.
- 10 The white students tortured the black students every day.
- 11 Pushing them,
- 12 Shoving them,
- 13 Kicking them,
- 14 Knocking them down,
- 15 Spitting on them,
- 16 The white kids would also step
- 17 On the back of the black kids' heels.
- ALL THAT HURTS! {Gesture}
- But despite all the physical and emotional torment,

- 19 the Little Rock Nine
- 20 never told their parents
- about what was happening at school.
- ALL WHY NOT? {Gesture}
- 1 Because if their parents had known the truth..
- 2 they would have pulled them out of school.
- 3 Today, fifty years later,
- 4 Every single one of the Little Rock Nine are still alive.
- 5 They are all successful.
- 6 When asked the question
- ALL WHY DID YOU PUT UP WITH ALL THAT SUFFERING? {Gesture}
- 7 They all point to something
- 8 that Martin Luther King Junior told them...
- 9 During that difficult year.
- 10 he said...
- ALL YOU'RE NOT DOING THIS FOR YOURSELVES. {Gesture}
- ALL YOU'RE DOING THIS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. {Gesture}