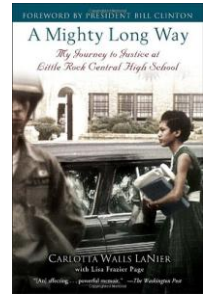


Essay Contest for 2017 Young Readers Program

Presented by the Robert H. Jackson Center and
The Law, Youth and Citizenship Program of the New York State Bar Association

A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School By Carlotta Walls LaNier



BOOK ESSAYS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MIDNIGHT APRIL 3, 2017.

Theme: This powerful story follows the life of Carlotta Walls LaNier as she and eight other African-American students integrated Little Rock Central High School during the late 1950s. Only fourteen years old, Carlotta faced racism, discrimination, and prejudice as she walked the halls and entered the classrooms of Central High. Outside school, she and her family experienced the hardships and terror associated with attempts to desegregate public schools after the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954). As Carlotta accepted her diploma at graduation, she remembered all of those brave classmates who started the challenge of integration with her. “I was walking for them. We had risked it all and made it through.” –Carlotta Walls LaNier

Task: Using examples from *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School* by Carlotta Walls LaNier, tell how Carlotta, when faced with racism, discrimination, and prejudice, persevered and overcame these obstacles. Discuss how Carlotta graduated, achieved her goals in life and finally found peace. Also, explain the importance of the message in this story and its relevance to your own life.

Essay Format:

1. Your essay must be between 300 and 500 words in length.
2. Your essay must be typewritten and double-spaced.
3. You must address the **Task**, using examples from the book to support your answer.
4. Your essay will be judged on how well you answer the question with specific examples, along with its organization, grammar and spelling.
5. Use complete sentences.
6. In your conclusion, explain the importance of this book to you personally.

Winners:

- Three winners will be selected throughout New York State and will be notified by mail.
- Each winner will be awarded a cash prize of: 1st place, \$500; 2nd place, \$250; and 3rd place, \$100.
- Each winner will be invited to meet the author, Carlotta Walls LaNier, in Jamestown, New York on May 23, 2017.
- Acceptance of the prize constitutes permission to use winner’s name, likeness, and essay for public relations purposes without additional compensation or consent.
- Winning essays will be printed and distributed by the Robert H. Jackson Center and the New York State Bar Association; neither organization is responsible for any liability associated with the acceptance of the prize package.

Requirements:

- You must be a 7th or 8th grade student in New York State.
- You must complete the **Essay Contest Enrollment Form** and staple it to your essay.
- You must follow the **Essay Format** (see above).
- Your essay must be typewritten, double-spaced and be an original work of scholarship. All sources must be listed.
- The **deadline of April 3, 2017** will be strictly observed.



OFFICIAL ESSAY CONTEST ENROLLMENT FORM
Essay Contest for 2017 Young Readers Program
A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School
By Carlotta Walls LaNier

Directions: Submit your essay to your classroom teacher. Each participating **school** should select and send **two** entries per classroom. Send **two** copies of each entry along with an Enrollment Form attached to each essay in one packet by midnight April 3, 2017 to:

New York State Bar Association
LYC PROGRAM ESSAY CONTEST
One Elk Street
Albany, New York 12207

Essay Contest Enrollment Form

Student's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home phone: (____) _____

School you attend: _____

School phone number: (____) _____

Current grade: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Judging Criteria: Essays will be judged for content, organization, clarity and style. The judging panel will include teachers and educators selected by the Law, Youth and Citizenship Program. The decisions of the judges are final, and all entries become the property of the NYS Bar Association and the Robert H. Jackson Center. Immediate family members of the Robert H. Jackson Center or its employees are ineligible.

Young Readers Program Author Event: In association with the essay contest, the Robert Jackson Center will sponsor the 2017 Young Readers Program on May 23, 2017 in Jamestown, NY. Held annually, the program seeks to celebrate the important contributions young people's literature makes to lifelong literacy, education, and citizenship. For more information on how to attend, please contact the Center at 716-483-6646 or info@robertjackson.org

