

CHAPTER
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Section 1

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Making Inferences*

In September 1957, Elizabeth Eckford made history as she forced her way through an angry crowd of whites in an effort to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Study the photo of Eckford on page 703 of the text and read the news article on this page. Consider what inferences you can make about the impact of this event. Then answer the questions that follow. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. R10.)

Hazel Bryan was part of the crowd that day [in September 1957]. Her face grimaced in hate, she shouted at Eckford, who clutched her books to her chest and walked on, her emotions hidden behind dark glasses.

When a photograph of the bitter meeting between the two 15-year-old girls appeared in newspapers around the country, Eckford became a symbol of the civil rights movement. Bryan's young face became an image of racial hatred.

Now 55, the women

met . . . for the first time since that troubled time. There were smiles and poses for pictures. They mostly let the past be.

"Thank you, Elizabeth, for agreeing to do this," Bryan, now Hazel Massery, said quietly as she greeted Eckford at her home.

Answered Eckford, before the two left for the school: "I think you're very brave to face the cameras again. . . ."

At the school, both black and white students recognized Eckford. "Miss Eckford, I just want you to

know how much I respect you," a black student said. A white junior high student gave Eckford a big hello; they talked briefly about taking classes at the high school.

Massery said that she had hoped others would know of her regret and her acknowledgment that intolerance was wrong.

"I just want to say, Elizabeth, I'm elated that you're doing this," she said. "I'd like for my children to be proud, to see that both of us are role models."

Peggy Harris, *Associated Press* writer, Tuesday, September 23, 1997

1. By studying the photo on page 703, what can you infer about the obstacles facing Eckford and the other African-American students who integrated Central High School?

2. By comparing the photo with the news story, what can you infer about reasons African Americans consider Little Rock a milestone in the civil rights movement?

