**“I Was Conditioned”**

**Questions:**

1. What day of the Little Rock Crisis does Bates remember the most? Why? How did the events of that day make her feel?
2. Why according to Bates did the mob attack the black reporters?
3. How does Bates feel about white people? Why does she feel this way?
4. When and how did Bates become the mentor of the Little Rock Nine? Why do you think they turned to her to be their mentor?
5. What does Bates consider to be her most important contribution to the desegregation of Central High?
6. During the desegregation crisis, the Little Rock Nine were around 15-16 years old. How do you understand Bates’ comment that she helped them understand “what was expected of them”? What does it tell you about the role of youth in the civil rights movement?
7. Explore Bates’ biography following resources suggested in the “Context” section. How do you understand Bates’ statement that she was “conditioned” to play a role in the desegregation crisis? How did her earlier life experiences “condition” her to be the mentor to the Little Rock Nine?