

Voices of the Movement - Quote Interpretation Answer Key

(Sample Responses) - These are example interpretations. Student answers will vary and should reflect understanding and thoughtful connection.

Quote 1: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

- Interpretation: If injustice is allowed in one place, it threatens justice for everyone, because injustice can spread or affect others indirectly.
 - Connection: This applies to the Little Rock Nine. If one school gets away with denying Black students entry, it threatens the principle of equal education everywhere.
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✔ Quote 2: “You don’t have to ride Jim Crow.”

- Interpretation: You don’t have to accept segregation or racist policies—there are other ways, like protest or resistance.
 - Connection: This was the slogan of the Freedom Riders, who refused to follow segregated travel rules in buses and terminals across the South.
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✔ Quote 3: “If not us, then who? If not now, then when?”

- Interpretation: We can't wait for others to take action—it's up to us to create change now.
 - Connection: This reflects the spirit of SNCC and young activists who led sit-ins, voter registration drives, and marches, even when adults were afraid.
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✔ Quote 4: “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

- Interpretation: Education opens doors and creates opportunity. Without it, people will be left behind.
 - Connection: The struggle for school integration, like in the case of the Little Rock Nine or the court case *Brown v. Board*, reflects this idea.
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✔ Quote 5: “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”

- Interpretation: If we can’t find unity and peace, we risk destroying each other and society.
- Connection: This quote captures the urgency of nonviolent protest and racial harmony promoted during the March on Washington and by Dr. King’s leadership.