Know the News: This Student Helped Desegregate America’s Schools

Read the article, then answer the questions.

1. Which is a central idea of the article?
   A Barbara Johns grew up in Farmville, Virginia.
   B Hundreds of thousands of people attended the March on Washington.
   C Barbara Johns organized a protest that helped lead to the desegregation of public schools.
   D Many people did not agree with the Supreme Court’s ruling in Brown v. Board of Education.

2. Which statement best supports the author’s claim that Barbara's school “was literally falling apart”?
   A “The ceilings were so cracked that [students] had to use umbrellas indoors when it rained.”
   B “Hundreds of students . . . looked up at her with surprise.”
   C “Jim Crow laws and customs prevented many black people from exercising their right to vote.”
   D “The all-white Farmville High School . . . had spacious classrooms.”

3. Which of these happened first?
   A Barbara led a walkout at her school.
   B The Supreme Court ruled in the Brown case.
   C The March on Washington took place.
   D Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier.

4. What does unattainable mean in this sentence? “To Barbara, fighting for integration was an unattainable goal—it seemed like reaching for the moon.”
   A realistic    C unworthy
   B not achievable    D cowardly

5. Which of the following is a key detail that should be included in a summary of the article?
   A In 1954, in a 9-0 ruling, the Supreme Court declared segregation in public schools illegal.
   B After the Brown ruling, Barbara’s family moved to Washington, D.C.
   C About 450 students attended Barbara’s school.
   D For black students, getting into trouble with the all-white police force was a serious matter.

6. Which word best describes Barbara?
   A determined    C immature
   B apologetic    D comfortable

7. Which conclusion can you reach from the circle graphs “School Segregation Today”?
   A Most schools are evenly divided between blacks and whites.
   B A typical white student’s school is nearly three-quarters white.
   C Very few schools have a majority of black students.
   D There are almost no Latinos in white schools.

8. Which of the following was not a reason for Barbara’s protest?
   A The school board refused to give her school proper funding.
   B The superintendent threatened to fire teachers.
   C Her school was so crowded that some classes were held in a run-down bus in the parking lot.
   D Her school had no gym, cafeteria, or science lab.

9. What is the main purpose of the slideshow “Key Moments: The Civil Rights Movement?”
   A to point out that federal troops were needed to escort nine black students into an Arkansas high school
   B to explain that Jackie Robinson helped spark the integration of professional sports
   C to help put Barbara’s protest in historical context
   D to highlight Martin Luther King Jr.’s importance to the civil rights movement

10. What can you conclude based on this article?
    A In 1954, everyone in America supported integrated schools.
    B During the civil rights movement, many people took a stand against inequality.
    C Schools in the South are just as segregated today as they were before the Brown ruling.
    D The Moton students had little to do with desegregating schools.