

## No Turning Back Prologue & Part 1

### Exit Ticket Answer Key

#### Exit Questions

1. Why is Verna's family sending her to live with her Uncle Curtis, Aunt Mabel, and cousin Addie in Greenwood?
  - a) To find work at a shop in the city to earn money for the family
  - b) To join the choir at Uncle Curtis's church and improve her singing
  - c) To go to Broad Street High School, the new school for Black students there**
  - d) To learn how to sew dresses from Aunt Mabel

**Answer explanation:** Addie's father and grandmother arrange for her to live with her extended family in Greenwood in order to attend Broad Street High School. In the prologue, she explains that Broad Street is supposed to be the best school for Black students in the entire Mississippi Delta.

2. Why doesn't Verna see her friend Robert as often as she used to?
  - a) He stopped visiting the Delta every summer after Emmett Till was murdered five years ago**
  - b) They had an argument at Verna's grandfather's funeral
  - c) Uncle Curtis forbids Verna from seeing Robert because he has been participating in civil rights protests
  - d) He was given detention for joking about organizing a sit-in at school in order to demand a microscope for the science lab.

**Answer explanation:** Robert's family were Delta sharecroppers who moved to Chicago when Robert was about 4-years-old. Robert used to visit the Delta every summer until 1955. That year, Emmett Till, a teenager like Robert, was murdered while visiting family in the Delta from Chicago. After the murder, Robert's family stopped sending him to visit the Delta.

3. What advice does Uncle Curtis give Verna about shopping in Greenwood?
  - a) To shop only at stores owned by Black people
  - b) That no day of shopping is complete without stopping at Reno's Cafe for a Delta tamale
  - c) To avoid drawing attention to herself and not to touch anything in the stores**
  - d) That she can save money by shopping at the St. Francis Center's used clothing store

**Answer explanation:** Before Verna and Addie set out for their day of shopping, Uncle Curtis makes a point of asking Verna if she knows how to behave in town. He reminds her, "Just don't draw attention to yourself, look with your eyes and not with your hands, and keep your business short, and you'll be alright." The implication is that following these guidelines will help her avoid suspicion from white people or worse.

4. Why does Addie hope that Mrs. Chalmers does not recognize her on the street?
  - a) Because Mrs. Chalmers is her Aunt's employer, and an unpleasant person**
  - b) Because Mrs. Chalmers is the choir director, and Addie has been skipping rehearsal

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- c) Because Mrs. Chalmers is a teacher at Broad Street High School, and it is awkward to see your teachers outside of school
- d) None of the above

**Answer explanation:** Aunt Mabel works as a maid in Mrs. Chalmers's house. As students learn from the girls' interaction with Mrs. Chalmers, she can be rude and condescending, showing little respect for Black Americans. Addie thinks it better not to have to talk to Mrs. Chalmers at all than it is to be disrespected or risk saying the wrong thing.

5. Which of the following is true about Verna's first week at Broad Street High School?

- a) She loves it there
- b) Her teachers are more experienced, but tougher graders, than the teachers at her old school
- c) The science lab has no equipment for experiments
- d) **All of the above**

**Answer explanation:** At the end of Part 1, Verna explains how she loves her new school and appreciates having more experienced teachers, even if it means she has to work harder to get good grades. However, she is disappointed that the school science lab is poorly equipped.