*Coming of Age in Mississippi* excerpt—P 609-615—In-Context Vocabulary:

* To **divert** attention from the sit-in at Woolworth’s, the picketing started at J. C. Penney’s a good fifteen minutes before. classify
* At noon, students from a nearby white high school started pouring in to Woolworth’s. When they first saw us they were sort of surprised. They didn’t know how to react. A few started to **heckle** and the newsmen became interested again. Then the white students started chanting all kinds of anti-Negro slogans.
* The boy lifted Joan from the counter by her waist and carried her out of the store. **Simultaneously**, I was snatched from my stool by two high school students.
* President Beittel went outside and asked Captain Ray to come and escort us out. The captain refused, stating the manager had to invite him in before he could enter the **premises**, so Dr. Beittel himself brought us out.
* But it hurt to have my family prove to me how scared they were. It hurt me more than anything else—I knew the whites had already started the threats and **intimidations**.

*Coming of Age in Mississippi* excerpt—P 609-615— text-dependent questions:

1. Read all of p 609, then list at least 3 specific things you know about the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s.
2. Think about the term “coming of age”, which refers to the process of becoming an adult and aware of the world around you. What historical events happening now do you think are molding your understanding of the world?
3. Notice that this excerpt describes events in chronological order. How does this help the reader understand the reading?
4. P 612: Summarize the author’s role at the sit-in and the initial reaction at the lunch counter.
5. Do your best to summarize the main events of this excerpt as you read.
6. How did the events the author describes change her attitude toward racists?
7. Read the poem “Frederick Douglas” on p 615. If you know/remember anything about Douglas, list any similarities between what he and civil rights leaders of the 50s and 60s did.

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