

## **Religion 8**

### **Freedom Writers Movie Assignment**

After watching the movie, *Freedom Writers*, respond to all of the following. Your responses are to be written or typed neatly and passed in as an assignment complete with cover page.

**NOTE:** It is advised that you read the questions **BEFORE** watching the movie so you can make notes to help you in your responses.

1. Why do Ms. Gruwell's students hate and resent her at first?
2. At the beginning of the school year, Erin is deeply disturbed by a racial drawing of one of her students that she finds being passed around the room. Why does Erin compare this drawing of an African-American student to the drawings of Jewish men during the Holocaust?
3. Why do you think Erin refers to the Nazis as the most famous gang in history? Why does this comparison make the students begin to listen to her?
4. Why are the students so unwilling to associate with anyone outside their ethnic/racial groups? Where does this intolerance come from?
5. Why aren't Ms. Gruwell's students motivated to succeed in school? What outside factors affect their ability to learn?
6. Why do you think Ms. Gruwell makes the effort to take her students on field trips to museums and treats them to fancy dinners, new books and computers? How do these "luxuries" impact the students?
7. Why is Eva so affected by the ending of Anne Frank's diary?
8. Miep Gies, the woman who hid Anne Frank, is a hero to Ms. Gruwell's students. What does Miep Gies mean when she tells Ms. Gruwell's students, "You are heroes everyday."?
9. In the movie, how does Erin Gruwell's obsession with work conflict with her personal relationships? Describe the changing relationships with her father and husband.
10. What makes Eva choose to "go against her people" in the courtroom? Do you think this was a good decision? How do her family and friends react?