

Name: _____
 Date: _____

STRONG INSIDE: READING REVIEW PACKET

For this reading assignment, you will **NOT** be reading the entire book, *Strong Inside*. Rather, you will be asked to read 8 select chapters, totaling about 50 pages. For each chapter that you read, you will be asked to complete a chapter chart by writing a one-sentence summary of the chapter, identifying and explaining an important quote, and providing your reaction to the chapter. Below, you will find specific guidelines for each of these three chapter tasks. You will also find an example chapter chart completed for chapter 1 of the text (a chapter you are not required to read).

- **ONE-SENTENCE SUMMARY** → You will write a ONE-sentence summary of what happened in the chapter. Focus only on the most critical idea. Think to yourself: What is this chapter’s role in the book?
- **QUOTE & EXPLANATION** → You will identify one quote from the chapter that reflects the chapter’s purpose as a whole. In other words, what is the most significant quote from the chapter? Make sure to write the quote exactly and provide a page number! Then, you will explain the quote. How does it connect to the chapter? Why is this quote the most significant?
- **REACTION** → You will provide your reaction to the chapter. Were you shocked? Scared? Angry? How did you feel about the events? What are your thoughts about Perry’s realities? Make sure to explain your answer! Each reaction must have an explanation with it!

The chapters you are required to read have a chapter chart underneath them. You are not required to read any other chapters. In order to ensure you understand everything in the select chapters, a simple summary is provided of the chapters you are not reading.

CHAPTER 1: “A DANGEROUS PLACE”

SUMMARY	The chapter retells the story of Perry Wallace’s first game at Mississippi State, showing the racist, cruel, and dangerous treatment he received from fans.
QUOTE	“[Perry] had seen racism bring out the worst in people. But this was a whole new level of hate” (4).
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	Being the first African American player in the SEC, Perry had expected people to treat him poorly; however, he was unprepared for the extreme hate that was shown. He was called “nigger,” “coon,” and told he would be lynched.
REACTION	I cannot imagine how difficult this was for Perry to experience. It is sickening to see how cruel and intolerant “Americans” were.

CHAPTER 2: “SHORT 26th”

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 3: “FREEDOM SONG”

Wallace was introduced to basketball by his cousin and caught the “bug.” He admired African American basketball players because they were a part of the mainstream, unlike those in his community. Wallace was recruited by Pearl High School’s basketball coach after the coach learned that Perry was able to dunk.

CHAPTER 4: “PEARL OF THE COMMUNITY”

Pearl High School was a good decision for Wallace. During segregation, the school had worked to have “separate but equalized” education, meaning they created a community of intelligent Black teachers, students, and community members. After desegregation, the school worked to inspire students to create equality between Whites and Blacks. Perry was challenged and excelled.

CHAPTER 5: “THE WOOMP SHOW”

Pearl High School’s basketball coach, Cornelius Ridley, was demanding and incredibly passionate. His intensity helped Wallace come out of his shell. Ridley encouraged Wallace to dunk – a move that became Wallace’s “freedom song,” as it showed his power and control.

CHAPTER 6: “NOT JUST ANOTHER GAME”

Wallace’s team played against Father Ryan High School, making it the first interracial game played in Tennessee. Wallace’s team lost, but because the game showed close competition, the game opened the doorways for interracial play. Blacks and Whites could play together.

CHAPTER 7: “THEY HAD THE WRONG GUY”

Originally, Wallace wanted to attend a Northern school; he wanted a “larger world” that was apart from segregation. However, he discovered that Northern schools would not academically challenge him. In fact, many suggested he would not even have to attend class or complete the work. In beginning to reject Northern schools, Wallace said, “I wasn’t going to trade one plantation for another.”

CHAPTER 8: “THE NAME OF THE GAME”

Wallace was recruited by Vanderbilt’s basketball coach, Roy Skinner. Wallace would be the first African American player in the SEC. As he struggled over whether or not he wanted to attend Vanderbilt, he received a mix of encouraging and discouraging comments from the White and Black communities. Some wanted him to cross the color line while others sent him death threats.

CHAPTER 9: “CHAMPIONS!”

Wallace’s Pearl High School basketball team competed in the state championship. The players were told that this game represented the entire Black community. Pearl High School won the championship game! Instead of celebrating and partying with his teammates, Wallace went out to dinner with his family.

CHAPTER 10: “THE PROMISE”

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 11: “THE SURPRISE”

When Wallace signed onto Vanderbilt, he learned that another African American player would also be on the team: Godfrey Dillard. Dillard’s decision was unexpected as he was from the North and grew up in a community that allowed for racial equality. But Dillard decided to attend Vanderbilt to contribute to the Civil Rights Movement; he wanted to move his race forward.

CHAPTER 12: “DANGEROUS TERRITORY”

During his first summer at Vanderbilt, Wallace was asked to leave the church he was attending because members threatened to pull their financial support if a Black man continued to attend services. At Vanderbilt, Wallace was one among a group of African American students who were intelligent and accomplished. Other White students claimed that these smart Black students helped show them how incorrect and wrong Southern racial views were. Wallace and Dillard formed a bond together, despite being total opposites (Wallace was more reserved, and Dillard was more eccentric).

CHAPTER 13: “HISTORY MADE THEM WRONG”

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 14: "HIT OR MISS"

Wallace's Vanderbilt team played the first ever SEC game with African American players against Western Kentucky University. While other teams, such as Ole Miss, cancelled their games against Vanderbilt due to its Black players, Wallace noted that University of Kentucky was different because it cared about basketball, not about who was playing.

CHAPTER 15: "CRAZY PEOPLE"

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 16: "SUDDEN IMPACT"

Vanderbilt hosted its Impact session, an event with speakers such as Martin Luther King and Stokely Carmichael. Students were encouraged by the speakers to fight for Black equality. Following the session, the worst race riots in Nashville history broke out. Wallace did not participate in the riots.

CHAPTER 17: "WHAT ABOUT JUSTICE?"

Wallace was given the opportunity to speak to Chancellor Heard on the realities of life as an African American student at Vanderbilt. After hearing these troubling stories, the Chancellor realized he would have to "treat these students of color differently to treat them equally."

CHAPTER 18: "THE INVISIBLE MAN"

Vanderbilt staff began to take steps towards better treatment of the black community on campus. Although they had good intentions, the changes made were awkward and showed little progression towards changing daily life on campus.

CHAPTER 19: "SLAMMED SHUT"

At the beginning of the 1967 season, Wallace received news that the dunk was banned from play. This new rule forced Wallace to become a better basketball player and move his abilities beyond this signature move.

CHAPTER 20: "AS GOOD AS IT GETS"

The Commodores faced many top ten opponents in their opening games of the 1967 season. The team proved successful in their early matchups overcoming sickness and loss of key players such as Godfrey Dillard.

CHAPTER 21: "THE SUDDEN FALL"

As Vandy dropped in wins, Wallace received criticism from both the Black and White communities. Wallace took a peaceful approach to the criticism from both sides and focused on his game.

CHAPTER 22: "NIGHTMARES"

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 23: "HATE, DEFEATED"

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 24: "A RIVER OF TEARS"

After the final game of the 1967-68 season, Perry reflected on the hardships he endured throughout the winter. His thoughts were interrupted by Chancellor Heard who came in the locker room to congratulate Wallace on all he was able to overcome that season.

CHAPTER 25: "DEATH OF A DREAM"

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Wallace and other members of the Vanderbilt community mourned his loss at a memorial service on campus and followed with a peaceful march in Dr. King's honor.

CHAPTER 26: "TRUTH OF POWER"

In the wake of Dr. King's death, talks of racial issues throughout the country were more open. Godfrey Dillard took this time to play a more active role in political student life on campus. Dillard began to speak out to the community on the need for equality.

CHAPTER 27: "THE CRUEL DECEPTION"

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

CHAPTER 28: "ALL ALONE"

As Godfrey began to speak out more on campus, the basketball program pulled away from him. Sensing his relationship with the program had "soured," Dillard decided to go home to Detroit, leaving Wallace to endure his senior season alone.

CHAPTER 29: "NEVERMORE"

At the end of his junior year, Wallace approached Coach Skinner about moving off campus to take stress off of dealing with life on campus. Skinner agreed to Wallace's request on the condition that Perry follows a strict workout routine all summer to up his game for his senior season.

CHAPTER 30: "BACHELOR OF UGLINESS"

At the beginning of his senior year, Wallace was awarded the Bachelor of Ugliness. This award acknowledged "a male student who made the most significant contributions to the university." Wallace felt that winning this popularity contest "whitewashed" his experience at Vandy, and he was ready to set the record straight.

CHAPTER 31: "HE SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST"

On March 7, 1970, Wallace played his final career game at Vandy. He capped off his college basketball career with his signature "Freedom Song" dunk.

CHAPTER 32: "TICKET OUT OF TOWN"

SUMMARY	
QUOTE	
<i>QUOTE EXPLANATION</i>	
REACTION	

