Remember the Titans

The fact-based story begins with the integration of black and white students at T. C. Williams High School. This effort to improve race relations is most keenly felt on the school's football team, the Titans, and bigoted tempers flare when a black head coach is appointed and his victorious predecessor reluctantly stays on as his assistant. How these two men overcome their differences and turn a group of hostile young men into champions is the center-point of the story.

Study questions

Where is this story set? How do you know?

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When is it set? How do you know.

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What do you think went through everyone’s mind when they arrived in early morning at the Gettysburg battlefield after Coach Boone’s impassioned speech?

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How do the ’71 Titans start to become a team? Please list those factors that bring them together as a team.

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Coach Boone tells the players, “I don’t care if you like each other, you will respect each other… and maybe play this game like men.” What do you think Coach Boone meant by “play this game like men”? Did he mean to be macho, to simply be respectful to one another, or to be mature in their relationships?

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The 5-8 Project – Supporting Literacy and Numeracy across Years 5 to 8
Scottsdale Cluster; Author: Sherri Rainbow
How much does the way you act toward other people influence your attitudes about them, even despite the way you feel?

The team comes to another crisis when they arrive back in town from training camp. School is just starting, and for the first time, T.C. Williams High School is integrated. There are hundreds of protesters at the school when the black students arrive, and much melee at the school entrance. The Titans are dumbfounded because they’ve changed during training camp, but their town hasn’t. How did you feel when one player said to the other, “Back to the real world—we’d have been better staying where we were.”

After a few games, the team was losing some of what they had gained at camp. One even says to another, “The world tells us they don’t want us to be together and we just fall apart.” How much do the opinions of people around you influence you and your actions?

Coach Yoast lost the vote that would have put him in the Hall of Fame, because of how he supported the team instead of the people who wanted Coach Boone to fail. Early in the film getting into the Hall of Fame was really important to him. At the end, though, when he found out how the vote went, it didn’t seem to faze him too much. What changed for Coach Yoast over the course of the ’71 football season? Have you ever stood up for what you believed was right, even though others didn’t approve of your stance? Have you ever taken a stand even though doing so would cause you to lose something important to you?

When Gary was in the hospital after he got his by the truck, the only person he wanted to see was Julius. What happened between these two people to cause such a close connection? How had they both changed from the beginning of the story? How did you respond to Gary’s chastising the nurse: “Alice, are you blind? Don’t you see the family resemblance? That’s my brother!”