

**Course outline based on book *The Life and Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune*.
Pearson Publishing. Available on Amazon
Dr. Nancy Long**

The following is a guide to accompany *The Life and Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune*; detailed questions have answers and page in parenthesis. Other questions can be used for personal journals or essay topics to promote analysis and personal reaction. I would welcome suggestions or ideas you may have to improve this guide.

Sincerely,

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Prologue:

1. The prologue of the book begins with a flashback: Mary reflects on her life and discusses three dreams which motivated her. Describe these three dreams. (p. iv-v)
2. Describe a dream that you had that has motivated or affected your life.
3. Imagine yourself at 80 years old. As you reflect on your life, what dreams or goals would you like to see come true.

Chapter 1:

1. Describe Mary's family (Married parents were exslaves who had 17 children of which she was 15th p.1).
2. What kind of life did Mary have living near Mayesville, South Carolina? (Happy Christian family who worked hard to raise crops p.2).
3. Patsy McLeod, Mary's mother, had a large burn scar on her chest. How did she get this scar and why did she share the story with her girls? (Master's son made advances and threw hot wax at her when she resisted; she encouraged morals in her children p.3)
4. What experience inspired Mary to want to learn how to read? (Her mother worked for her former master, and Mary went with her; the children were reading books and Mary could not read. p.4).
5. How did Mary begin her education? (Family let her be the one child of the family to attend a school that was being started in Mayesville p.4).
6. How many miles did Mary walk to and from school every day? (5 miles)
7. Who provided a scholarship for Mary to attend school? (Mary Chrisman the seamstress p.5)
8. At Scotia Seminary, Mary worked hard to learn. What was the one subject she excelled in? (music p.6)
9. What was unique about Mary when she attended the Dwight Moody Institute for Home and Foreign Missions in Chicago? (She was the only black p.6).

10. What was Mary's dream after she graduated from Scotia? Why was she not allowed to pursue this dream? (She wanted to be a missionary to Africa, but blacks were not allowed to do this p.6).
11. Compare and contrast your family and your upbringing with Mary's.
12. Miss Mary Chrisman had a tremendous effect on Mary's life. Describe a person who has had a positive impact on your life.
13. Mary was the only black at a school of over 1000 students. Describe a time you were in a situation where you felt like "the only one."

Chapter 2:

1. How did Mary meet her future husband Albertus? (church choir practice p.7)
2. One year after their marriage, Mary and Albertus had a son named Albert who was what number grandchild for Patsy and Samuel McLeod? (90th grandchild p.7)
3. What incident in Palatka sealed the decision to move to Daytona to build a school? (their home burnt to the ground p.8)
4. On Oct. 4, 1904, Mary started her school in Daytona with how many students? (5 little girls and her son Albertus p. 9).
5. Name three benefactors who helped Mary with funds and needs for the students. (Several, but main ones were Gamble, Rockefeller, White, Harrison Rhodes p.12-14).
6. Why was the future campus called "Hell's Hole"? (It was a city garbage dump p.11)
7. Describe student life in those first years. (students learned useful skills, helped with gardening and school upkeep p. 10-11)
8. How would attending Mary's school at that time differ from the elementary school you attended?
9. What other projects did Mary begin in Daytona? (Better Boys' Club, education of migrant workers in the camps, first black hospital, Sunday Community Temperance Meetings).
10. How did Mary hurt her arm? (fell on the beach at night on the 4th of July, 1913 p.20)

Chapter 3:

1. How did Mary first get involved politically? (p. 25 She was invited to Washington to discuss Negro participation in the Red Cross. She also was elected President of the Florida Colored Women's Club)
2. Describe Mary's first invitation to visit Washington. How did she get her clothes for the trip? (Contributed clothes were altered for her to wear p.25).
3. How did Mary deter the KKK marchers who marched on campus in 1917? (She had the lights in the girls' hall turned off and the floodlights on the

campus turned on to show the KKK in full light. The girls sang gospel songs and the men finally dispersed p.26).

4. What occurred in 1928 that drastically affected Florida? (hurricane p. 32)
5. What trip did Mary take in 1928 for which her friends helped pay the expenses? (Europe p. 29-30)
6. Why did the Black Rose in the garden at Switzerland affect Mary so deeply? p. 30 Black rose grew amidst a hillside of all colors of roses, like all humans living together in a mosaic of harmony).

Optional Chapter 3 (multiple choice):

1. Chapter 3 deals with Mary as: a. educator b. politician c. teacher d. mother.
2. In 1914, Mary was invited to Washington, D.C. to speak about Negroes being allowed to join what group? a. NAACP b. Congress c. Red Cross d. Federation of Colored Women
3. In 1917, Mary organized black women to push for : a. children's rights b. jobs c. anti-alcohol laws d. voter registration of blacks
4. The KKK marched onto the campus. Mary: a. turned the lights on the KKK and had the girls sing a hymn b. marched the girls out to meet them c. stood with Father Doyle and the watchman by the gate as the KKK marched by d. threw water on the burning cross
5. Curtis Hall was funded and named after:
a. a famous actor Tony Curtis b. A former educator Mary Curtis
c. the gardener James Curtis d. rich woman Flora Curtis who wanted fresh flowers on her grave
6. A wealthy writer Harrison Rhodes became the school's assistant financial director and established the first a. hospital b. movie house
c. farm d. library
7. In 1924, Mary was elected president of the National Association of Colored Women which:
a. brought white and black women together
b. discussed issues of segregation in WWII
c. wanted a better world for children d. all of the above.
8. In 1927, Mary traveled to nine countries in: a. Europe b. the Orient
c. South America d. Africa

9. Bethune's school merged with the Cookman Institute, founded by Alfred Cookman who was: a. an ex-slave abolitionist b. a rich trustee member c. a white d. a black minister.
10. This new Bethune Cookman Collegiate Institute was: a. an all-girl elementary school and girls b. an all-girl high school c. an elementary school for boys and girls d. a high school and jr. college for boys and girls.
11. What event in 1928 caused major economic problems in Florida? A. freeze of citrus crops b. hurricane c. forest fires d. drought.
12. Miss Mary Chrisman was the: a. secretary for Dr. Bethune b. first home economic teacher at B-CC c. sister of John D. Rockefeller. d. seamstress who had donated money for Mary's education
(answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. d, 4. a, 5. d, 6. d, 7. d, 8. a, 9. c, 10. d, 11. b, 12. d)

Paragraph:

- A. What was significant to Mary about the Black Velvet Rose she saw in the garden at Berne?

Chapter 4

1. Describe how Mary became friends with President Roosevelt. (p.36 She gave a speech about black youths at the White House).
2. Describe your best friend and how you met.
3. Why did Mary switch to the Democratic Party? (She felt Roosevelt and the Democratic party best represented the concerns of the common people p.37)
4. What physical illness affected Mary all her life? (Asthma p.42).
5. Do you have any illnesses or past accidents which have affected your health?
6. Mary had incredible leadership ability. Describe yourself as a leader. What are your weaknesses and strengths as a leader?
7. List three of the organizations that Mary led or supported. (Black Cabinet, National Council of Negro Women, National Negro Conference)
8. What organizations have you belonged to? Why did you support these groups? Did you hold any offices in these groups?

Optional open book test for Chapter 4 *Life and Legacy of Mary McLeod Bethune*

1. What is the title of chapter 4?
2. What does the quote under title mean (p.35)?
3. What operation did Mary have in 1931?
4. Describe problem in country in 1932.
5. What award did Mary receive in 1935?
6. Describe how Mary became friends with President Roosevelt.

7. What was the Black Cabinet?
8. Why did Mary switch to the Democratic Party?
9. What was stressful for Mary when she attended Roosevelt's second inauguration?
10. What three programs did National Youth Administration provide?
11. Name two ways this NYA helped the youth?
12. What happened on June 25, 1939, right down the street from this college?
13. Why was the National Council of Negro Women important?
14. What did Mary do at the second National Negro Conference?
15. Where did Eleanor Roosevelt stay when she visited Daytona in 1940?
16. What physical illnesses affected Mary at age 65?
17. On the train trip, what job did the young girl think Mary had (p. 43)?
18. Who did Mary ouster from presidency of Bethune-Cookman College in 1946?
19. Who became president of Bethune-Cookman College in 1947?
20. Do you have any illnesses or past accidents which have affected your health?
21. Mary had incredible leadership ability. Describe yourself as a leader. What are your weaknesses and strengths as a leader?
22. What organizations have you belonged to? Why did you support these groups? Did you hold any offices in these groups?

Chapter 5

1. In World War II, what were some of the activities Mary was involved with? (NYA, National Negro Conference, American Women's Volunteer Service, Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and a list on p. 49).
2. What title did Mary hold in the Women's Army for National Defense? (4 star general p. 50).
3. When President Franklin Roosevelt died, what prized possession did Eleanor Roosevelt give Mary? (His monogrammed walking stick which his uncle Teddy Roosevelt had given Franklin p. 50).

Chapter 6 Post-War:

1. Who became president after Roosevelt died? (Truman p. 53).
2. In 1949, why was Mary invited to Haiti? (To receive the Medal of Honor and Merit p. 54).
3. In 1952, what dream came true for Mary? (She was invited to Africa p.55).
4. In 1954, Mary attended the World Assembly for Moral Rearmament in what country? (Switzerland p. 55)
5. What was the purpose of the conference in Switzerland which Mary attended? (People wanted a better world based on honesty, love, and racial integration p. 56).
6. Where did Mary die on May 18, 1955? (Her home the Retreat p. 56).
7. List three items that Mary left in her "Last Will and Testament." (See page 58-59).

Chapter 7 Family Life:

1. What led to Mary's marriage to dissolve? (Albertus was unfaithful p.61).
2. What problem did Mary have with her first-born son Albert Sr.? (He got a white woman pregnant when he was only 18 years old. p. 62).
3. Why did Mary adopt her own grandson? (To avoid scandal and also to keep the child with her p. 62).
4. How do you feel about Mary as a mother? What do you think she should have done differently?
5. Describe times that you or your siblings caused problems or headaches for your family.

Chapter 8 Interviews:

1. Choose the three interviews which you thought were most interesting to you. How did Mary affect these people's lives?
2. Interview an elderly family member and write an essay about his/her life story.
3. Create your family tree recording going back as far as you can to trace the family history.
4. Talk to family members to learn about your family history.