

Darnella West 14 years old 9th Grade
9 years in Ruleville Central High

Every November my teacher has told the class to prepare to go to the fields the next day. The teacher says if we don't come, we'll have to pay \$2.50 or \$3.00. The next day I wear field clothes to school and go by truck or trailer to Cassell May's plantation where we would pick cotton. I have never been paid for this work. I have seen the teacher get the money from Mr. May. The teacher sometimes tells us how much we make. Sometimes it's \$14 or \$15 for the class which last year was 30 or 35. I had to buy my own lunch or bring it. I was 9 in the 4th grade when I first went to pick cotton.

Last November my 8th grade teacher asked us to go picking. Her name was Mrs. Julia Taylor.

Signed: /s/ Darnella West

Witnesses:

/s/ Charles McLaurin

/s/ Leonard Edwards