

**Greenwood Cultural Center's BC Franklin Manuscript Literary Guide based on the
"The Tulsa Race Riot and Three of Its Victims" 1931 Manuscript by Buck Colbert (BC) Franklin from the
Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture**

Supporting Overall Comprehension of the Text

Pre-Reading

1. What is a manuscript? Why do you think it is important to know that the text is a manuscript?
2. What is the major setting of the text? Where does most of the narrative take place? In what time period does the narrative take place?

Reading Comprehension/Discussion Questions

Pages 1-3

1. On pages one and two, the narrator provides us with a type of prologue. What is the purpose of the prologue? What characters do we meet in the prologue?
2. What do we learn about the narrator from the prologue? What was the purpose of the gathering that he was speaking at? Does the narrator's words to the young, enlisted men surprise you? Why or why not?
3. On page two when we pick up the action after the prologue, it is May 31, 1921. What was occurring in the Greenwood community that was special?
4. According to the narrator, what apparently was the catalyst that would change the Greenwood community forever?
5. Describe the narrator's perception of the beginning of the riot?

Pages 4-5

1. Why do you think the businessmen seemed more concerned than others?
2. When does the narrator become fully aware of that a 'great catastrophe' might occur?
3. What do you think is mob-psychology? How would you describe it?
4. What does the narrator reflect about the sunrise and the coming of a new day on June 1st?
5. The narrator encounters Soldier Ross again. Compare and contrast their two encounters.

Pages 6-8

1. Why do you think Soldier Ross was determined to defend his home? Do you agree with his decision?
2. Discuss the narrator's range of emotions after his encounter with Soldier Ross.
3. In the last paragraph on page six, the narrator further discusses, mob-psychology; what insights does he share?



4. What action and inaction (on an institutional/governmental level) during the Massacre, especially surprised the narrator?
5. What two experiences does the narrator indicate will be in his memory forever? Of all the things he encountered, why do you think these two experiences, in particular, stood out?
6. Why do you think the narrator feels happy at the outcome of 'a report of a gun from within'? Do you agree with how he was feeling? Why or why not?
7. In the last paragraph we learn about the narrator's family. Why did they not experience the events of the Massacre?

Pages 9-10

1. Summarize the narrator's description of Convention Hall and the people he saw there. To what does he compare his experience to?
2. Discuss the purposes the author shares for his writing of the manuscript.
3. Do you agree with the narrator's comparison of the Massacre to 'the great holocaust'? Why or why not?
4. What was the plight of Soldier Ross and his family?
5. How is the outcome of Soldier Ross similar to what initially happened regarding the 'history' of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre?

Supporting Overall Comprehension of the Text

Post-Reading

1. (Character Analysis) List the major characters and character groups in the text. List three adjectives (character traits) for each of them and provide evidence from the story that supports your description of the character/group.
2. (Annotated Timeline) Create a timeline of the events that the narrator experiences or witnesses. For each marker on the timeline, summarize the event and the narrator's reflections about the event.

