



Individual Acts or Government Acts?

NAME: _____

In The School is Not White! by Doreen Rappapo, the Carter family experienced different forms of racism:

→ **Individual acts**—committed by ordinary people and mostly unplanned

→ **Government acts**—built into the rules, laws and customs of society or local communities

The strips below contain acts of racism from the story. Cut them apart and create two groups—individual acts and government acts. Discuss each act carefully with your partners. If you think of additional examples from the story, you can write them on the blank strips.

Someone shot through the walls and windows of the Carter house.

There were all-Black and all-white schools in the family's town.

At school there was name-calling, mocking laughter, ugly words, angry faces, raised fists, spitballs and kicking.

The principal wouldn't let a white girl talk to Deborah.

Everything in the all-white school was crisp and new.

The plantation overseer ordered them not to attend the all-white school—he took away their house, jobs and credit.

No one would sit with the Black kids in the cafeteria or on the bus.

The all-Black schools were inferior.

No one would play with the Black kids in the school yard.

Pearl's teacher told her she smelled.

The school refused to answer Mama's letters and help her.