

Imagery in Action

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Overview

This unit begins with, and then weaves throughout, a variety of poetry written by African Americans, into the School District of Philadelphia's English 3 "Civil Disobedience" unit. This genre of poetry will broaden the concept to include illustrative examples of the broader topics and ideas presented in this unit. Further inclusion of African American writers of great renown provides a more balanced selection of curricular reading. Although literacy and thinking skills are weakening throughout the nation's population of youth, students with special needs face the greatest challenges, especially in urban, comprehensive school settings. Nonetheless, these students are expected to meet the same objectives, utilizing the same texts as their non-disabled counterparts. This unit seeks to provide the inclusion of poetry containing somewhat less challenging vocabulary, yet with equal richness of themes, styles and literary devices. The overarching goals are to provide an understanding, enjoyment and appreciation of literature, including poetry, as one of history's most effective means of social activism. To this end, the unit will focus primarily on the imagery gleaned from the poetry presented.

Rationale

The School District of Philadelphia's English 3 curriculum has included a unit entitled "The Dissenters", which highlights the writings of Thoreau, Gandhi, and King in the Elements of Literature's (fifth course) "Civil Disobedience" unit. These giants provide students with rich ideas and literary excellence across genres, with speeches, essays and letters. Their activism spanned eras, as well as involvement of different groups of people. The next step is for students to be shown other examples of literature used as

social activism which may also be tied to contemporary issues. Additionally, this unit can be made more full and engaging with the inclusion of poetry.

African American poets have provided us with many poems that exemplify a different form of social activism. The connection of this genre will not only aid in the comprehension of the concept, but will present other perspectives along this theme, and fill in needed gaps. Students will be able to view the use of poetry as a viable means of civil disobedience. Today's high school students will find greater relevance in this study and inclusion of African American poetry. Students will be able to compare and contrast themes of action or dissent.

The curriculum requires students to read and appreciate a variety of genres, learn, analyze and use the numerous literary devices employed by writers, as well as develop speaking and listening skills. Rigorous standards and curriculum are necessary to prepare students for 21st century competition. Educators must be mindful as well, of the interest and ability levels of all of today's young people in order to ensure that these rigorous curricular studies are indeed being comprehended and appreciated, hopefully for future utilization.

Objectives

The objectives of this unit coincide and reflect the objectives of the state's standards. These language arts standards are subdivided by Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, and Research, and this unit involves each of these components. The unit proposes to expand one of the given units provided in the Philadelphia School District's "scheduling and planning timeline," – to incorporate poetry. Students are challenged by the standards to critically read and analyze literature. The poetry included here, all by African American writers, is chosen for the purpose of analyzing theme, purpose and imagery. Students will read poetry, study its devices, and conduct research to write about and present unit projects.

Students will read and listen to poems surrounding the theme of injustice prior to, and following the reading of Henry David Thoreau's speech, *Resistance to Civil Government*. While students will be asked to focus on the imagery created by the paradoxes in this speech, such as "That government is best which governs not at all." and "I felt as if I alone, of all my townsmen had paid my tax," they will be guided to focus on the imagery created in the poetry. Students will read and listen to poems surrounding the theme of adopting a resistant mentality prior to, and following the reading of Mohandas K. Gandhi's speech, *On Nonviolent Resistance*. Gandhi makes it clear in this essay why and how they "will never comply with your arbitrary laws," as he explains that it takes two hands to clap, and two parties to fight. This unit will ask students to explore the imagery given with Gandhi's metaphors, such as, "Shower what sufferings you like; we will calmly endure all and not hurt a hair on your body." They will as well, analyze the

images in related poems. Students also will read and listen to poems surrounding the theme of dealing with racial discrimination prior to, and following the reading of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from Birmingham City Jail*. As students examine King's use of imagery in his description of "the rabid segregationist" and "all types of conniving methods used," they will likewise examine poets' illustrative skills. The students will be guided to analyze the poets' themes, and purposes of given poems. They will additionally relate these themes with the related historical and social contexts.

Imagery is defined as "the use of language to evoke a picture or a concrete sensation of a person, a thing, a place, or an experience" in the student text, Holt Elements of Literature. Poets creatively make use of many figurative language devices in their poems to excite the senses. These devices, particularly, hyperbole, metaphor, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, objectification, personification, and simile will be highlighted for students to examine and appreciate. The students will read to contrast and make comparisons of these poetic devices, with the purpose of making connections to the writers' themes.

Students will write in response to the poetry presented. They will be asked to write in a variety of formats in so doing. Journal entry, essay, editorial, poem, letter, biographical sketch, advertisement, and invitation writing will be assigned.

Students will research information about African American poets and their writings. They will utilize resources of provided books and websites. Their research, as well as class assignments, will be conducted mostly for the purpose of practice and gathering information and ideas for the culminating project.

Strategies

Large classroom display posters will be utilized for the duration of the unit. "POETRY" and "ACTIVISM" posters will be used as acronyms that will constantly display key terms and ideas associated with poetry. Letters in both of these focus words will be part of, if not the beginnings of key terms and ideas, as shown in the examples below.

P oet (parallelism, personification)	A lliteration (allusion, assonance)
O nomatopoeia (oxymoron)	C onflict (call & response)
E pigram	T heme
T one	I rony (Iambic)
R hym (rhyme)	V erse
Y imagery	I nversion
	S imile (stanza, symbol, style)
	M etaphor (meter)

Journal writing will be employed throughout the unit. Here, pre-class writing prompts may be given as introductions to concepts, historical periods, or social issues. This will be one means of eliciting prior knowledge, and/ or personal feelings. The literature journal will be used additionally for writing in response to the literature. Personal reflections towards a class ending are important for students, especially when there is a presence of difficulties with long and short term retention. Small and large group discussions will be an essential part of this unit.

The primacy-recency effect (Sousa 2003) of learning states that people will remember most, that which is stated first in a lesson or lecture. This is the primacy portion. Learners will remember next that which was presented last in the lecture or lesson. This is the recency portion. Poetry recitation, via teacher, student, or technology, will be done at the start and conclusion of each lesson to capitalize on this premise.

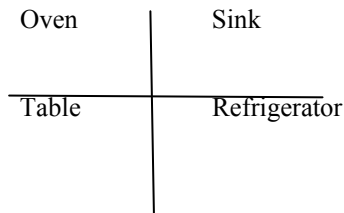
Graphic organizers and matrices will be utilized by the class to assist readers in organizing important ideas for the purpose of comparing, contrasting, and of course, comprehension. Using *split-screen notes* is an excellent means for students to direct their focus on a text being read. Upon sharing these notes with peers in the class, the class can then choose words, phrases, and diagram portions from the entire group that best represents the text for a class display. Focus might be narrowed to a particular focus, such as metaphors, similes or setting. Students will be strongly encouraged by modeling and reminders, to use highlighters or highlighter tape while reading or discussing text, as well as to make notations onto and about a particular text.

Several strategies to enhance comprehension will be used. Frequent repetition and practice with recognizing and utilizing terms and concepts is one of the intentional components of this unit. Examples of such strategies follow.

The **RAFT** summarization strategy will be used as a means to apply recently acquired knowledge, as well as to practice writing and thinking skills. Using this strategy, students will need to choose from given lists for the role (R), audience (A), format (F), and time (T) of the writing piece. For instance, one might choose the role of Langston Hughes to write to the School Reform Commission (A) a proposal to change poetry from an elective to a core subject (f) in the year 2009 (T).

A **Synecitic Summary** activity is a wonderful tool for small group collaborations to help process a topic under study. This technique can allow for the strengths of all group members to be put into use. I would provide several examples and whole class brainstorming situations prior to assigning the matrix to students. Students might even benefit from a competitive challenge, such as a prize for the group with the most squares completed. The use of this strategy in this unit will be to practice with literary devices. For example, following the reading of *Remembering Nat Turner*, by Sterling A. Brown,

when given a question, such as “How was the memory of Nat Turner like parts of a kitchen,” student pairs (or teams) will be encouraged to create any number of similes, metaphors, and examples of personification and objectification. Students will supply these into given matrices containing parts of the kitchen (or other places or objects) for which to use in their creations.



Another strategy that will be utilized, is the “3, 2, 1” summarization activity. With this, students will be asked to name 3 of something (List three types of racial discrimination), 2 of another (Name two poems dealing with racial discrimination), and yet 1 of something else (Tell one reason why you feel it is unfair), all from the particular text or topic of the day. This strategy may be used for authors, poetic devices, or concepts, for example. It will be useful for homework, pre-class, review, games, lesson conclusions, and even a short quiz.

For independent reading and research while utilizing the computer, students will be able to make use of the Read Please application. This program, which reads aloud text on the screen, is valuable for low level readers, as it allows for the acquisition of immediate pronunciations that may be difficult.

By building lessons and assessments around inquiry, knowledge acquisition, problem solving, communication, and reflection, students will be given needed practices to provoke and promote thought. Therefore, the class should be presented with the final project assignment, as well as its corresponding evaluation rubric, within the initial phase of the unit. This unit plan involves two projects from which students may choose, according to their personal strengths and interests. Class participants, in groups of three (or four), will design, create, and present either a poetry slam event or a new museum. This unit intentionally limits the choice to expedite the students’ selection process. The events given from which to choose might just as easily include spoken word, debate, panel discussion, or all of the above. Likewise, the place created could be a poet’s house or restaurant.

Students will need to conduct research in the class, as well as outside of the class time to locate information about and writings by poets. They will have to make use of book resources, as well as computers to gain information from websites. Portions of the project will require computer applications, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint,

PhotoShop, etc. The students are able to decide whether their projects will be in the more traditional forms, or in digital form.

Classroom Activities

Prior to beginning lessons for Thoreau's essay, the following poem(s) will be read silently, and recited aloud. To correspond with Thoreau's essay, the poems presented here were selected with the theme of injustice in mind.

Love

John Henrik Clarke

Who is Justice? I would like to know.
Whosoever she is, I could love her so;
I could love her, though my race
So seldom looks upon her face.

In pairs, or groups of three, students will work to create an image of "Miss Justice" for Mr. Clarke. Their task will be to create the face of justice, utilizing the letters J-U-S-T-I-C-E. This activity will highlight and reinforce the idea of imagery created by a metaphor. Spelling is indirectly practiced, as well.

For a Lady I Know

Countee Cullen

She even thinks that up in heaven
Her class lies late and snores,
While poor black cherubs rise at seven
To do celestial chores.

After analyzing the form of this epigram poem, students will be given the task of writing one of their own. They may choose to write a couplet or quatrain. To aid those students with hesitancy at starting, a list of ideas may be provided with concepts, places, or adjectives, for example. (See appendix)

My Blackness Is the Beauty of This Land

Lance Jeffers

My Blackness is the beauty of this land,
my blackness,
tender and strong, wounded and wise,
my blackness:
I, drawling black grandmother, smile muscular and sweet,
unstraightened white hair soon to grow in earth,
work-thickened hand thoughtful and gentle on grandson's head,
my heart is bloody-razored by a million memories' thrall:

remembering the crook-necked cracker who spat
on my naked body,
remembering the splintering of my son's spirit
because he remembered to be proud
remembering the tragic eyes in my daughter's
dark face when she learned her color's meaning,

and my own dark rage a rusty knife with teeth to gnaw
my bowels,
my agony ripped loose by anguished shouts in Sunday's
humble church,
my agony rainbowed to ecstasy when my feet oversoared
Montgomery's slime,

ah, this hurt, this hate, this ecstasy before I die,
and all my love a strong cathedral!
My Blackness is the beauty of this land!

Lay this against my whiteness, this land!
Lay me, young Brutus stamping hard on the cat's tail,
gutting the Indian, gouging the nigger,
booting Little Rock's Minniejean Brown in the buttocks and boast,
my sharp white teeth derision-bared as I the conqueror crush!
Skyscraper-I, white hands burying God's human clouds beneath
the dust!
Skyscraper-I, slim blond young Empire
thrusting up my loveless bayonet to rape the sky,
then shrink all my long body with filth and in the gutter lie
as lie I will to perfume this armpit garbage,
While I here standing black beside
wrench tears from which the lies would suck the salt
to make me more American than America...

But yet my love shall civilize this land,
this land's salvation.

As students re-examine this poem, they will be asked to locate words, phrases, or lines that appeal to the various senses. These may be recorded in a chart either along the right side of the poem (as split screen notes), or on a separate sheet.

sight	touch	smell	hearing	taste	

Students will be asked to examine the poets' use of devices, by way of a comparison chart, as shown on the examples below. The charts may be devised for a single poem just as well as two or more.

Re-read the poems. Highlight the use of rhyme and alliteration used in each. Then record these examples in the comparison chart below.

	Poet	Rhyme	Alliteration	Tone	Theme
Love					
For a Lady I Know					
My Blackness Is the Beauty of This Land					

Following the reading and lessons for Thoreau's essay, the following poems will be read silently, and recited aloud. This poem may be added to the first comparison chart, or compared with one other, or examined alone, as the teacher sees fit and time constraints allow.

	Poet	Metaphors	Inversion	Tone	Theme
America					

My Blackness Is the Beauty of This Land					
--	--	--	--	--	--

America

Maya Angelou

The gold of her promise
has never been mined

Her borders of justice
not clearly defined

Her crops of abundance
the fruit and the grain

Have not fed the hungry
nor eased the deep pain

Her proud declarations
are leaves on the wind

Her southern exposure
black death did befriend

Discover this country
dead centuries cry

Erect noble tablets
where none can decry

“She kills her bright future
and rapes for a sou

Then entraps her children
with legends untrue”

I beg you

Discover this country.

A Poem for Players

Al Young

Yes, they'll let you play,
let you play third base or fender bass,
let you play Harrah's Club or Shea Stadium

They'll let you play
in a play anyway: Shakespeare,
Ionesco, Bullins, Baraka, or Genet
only don't get down *too* much
& don't go getting too uppity

They'll let you play,
oh yes, on the radio, stereo,
even on the video, Ojays,
O.J. Simpson, only please don't stray
too far from your ghetto rodeo

They'll let you be Satchmo,
they'll let you be Diz,
they'll let you be Romeo,
or star in *The Wiz*
but you gots to remember that
that's all there is

Oh, you can be a lawyer or a medico,
a well-briefcased executive with Texaco,
you can even get yourself hired, man,
to go teach *Ulysses* in Dublin, Ireland

They'll let you play
so long as you don't play around,
as long as you play it hot or cool,
as long as you don't play down the blues
they'll let you play in *Playboy*, *Playgirl*,
or the *Amsterdam News*

Finally they'll let you play
politics if you don't get in the way
the way some of us did and had to be

iced by conspiracy, international mystery

They'll let you play anybody but you,
that's pretty much what they will do

To analyze this poem's message, students might engage in a 3-2-1 activity, where they will supply three responses to the first question, two to the next, and one to the last. Each successive task requires deeper thought, where the first request is usually for a list or something literal, while the last is usually one of application or synthesis. Teachers may refer to Bloom's Taxonomy to ensure progression of tasks.

3-2-1 Activity

- Identify 3 different ways "they" will let you play.
- Explain 2 things that "players" should not do.
- Explain why you agree or disagree with the speaker in the poem.

Journal writing prompts for pre-class and homework assignments provide opportunities for gauging prior knowledge, introducing themes, reflection, and constructed response writing practice.

Examples

- Write about an incident in which you felt cheated, or when something unfair occurred to you or someone that you know.
- Discuss the words used by Lance Jeffers that helped to create the tone of the poem. How did the poem's tone affect your mood?
- How has Maya Angelou characterized this country in *America*? Use at least two pieces of evidence from the poem.

Next, students will prepare to read and study Gandhi's speech on nonviolent resistance. They will first be introduced to the following poem and related activities. To correspond with the messages given in this speech, the poems that are presented here were chosen with the theme of resistance in mind.

Blessed are Those Who Struggle

Suliaman El Hadi

Blessed are those who struggle
Oppression is worse than the grave
Better to die for a noble cause
than to live and die a slave

Blessed are those who courted death
Who offered their lives to give
Who dared to rebel, rather than serve
to die so that we might live

Blessed are those who took up arms
and dared to face our foes
Nat Turner, Vessey, Gabriel, Cinque
to mention a few names we know

Blessed are the memories of those who were there
at Harper's Ferry Raid
Strong were their hearts, noble their cause
and great was the price they paid

Blessed are the voices of those who stood up
and cried out, *Let us be free!*
Douglass and Garvey and Sojourner Truth
Du Bois and Drew Ali

Blessed are the giants that we have loved
and lost to the bullet's sting
like Malcolm and Medgar and the Panthers who fell
and Martin Luther King

and blessed are the bodies of those who were hung
from limbs of the sycamore tree
Who found end to their hope at the end of a rope
'cause they dared to attempt to be free

Up through the years we've continued this fight
our liberty to attain
And though we have faced insurmountable odds
yet the will to resist remains

Blessed are the spirits of those who have died
in the prisons all over the land
who committed one sin, they stood up like men
and got iced for just being a man

Blessed all of you who will join with us now
in this struggle of life and death
so that freedom and peace will be more than a word

to the offspring that we have left.

Hadi's poem is written in ten quatrains with an abcb rhyme scheme. The quatrains of this poem are hymnal, written in iambics, where lines 1 and 3 are tetrameter and lines 2 and 4 are trimeter. He makes use of slant rhyme almost half as much as exact rhyme. As with most hymnal quatrain poems, it lends itself greatly to voice recitation and song.

Students will read the poem while listening to the recording of it from The Last Poets' album. Students will then choose or be given one stanza to recite. Following a couple of minutes to practice, the class will recite the poem, with each stanza from a different pupil. The youngsters will then be charged with locating images from the internet corresponding with their chosen/ given stanza during the next computer session. Pictures and video clips can be saved in *imovie* and *iphoto*. Each 10 second video clip will be streamed together and combined with student recitation over the music/ beat of their collective choosing.

The class will receive mini lessons on end rhyme and quatrain writing. They will be asked to write at least one quatrain about a personal "oppression." Suggestions may include _____ class, brussel sprouts, dishes, little bother/ sister, and weed, to name a few. Students may use the interactive website (<http://ettcweb.lrk12.nj.us/forms/newpoem.html>), as well to complete this task, where they will be given a form and helpful prompts for each line.

Following the reading and lessons surrounding Gandhi's *On Nonviolent Resistance* speech, students will be given the following poem(s) to read. Related activities follow for practice and reinforcement of metaphors.

Speech to the Young/ Speech to the Progress-Toward

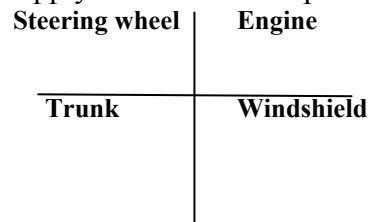
Gwendolyn Brooks

Say to them,
say to the down-keepers,
the sun-slappers,
the self-soilers,
the harmony-hushers,
"Even if you are not ready for day
it cannot always be night."
You will be right.
For that is the hard home-run.

Live not for battles won.
Live not for the end-of-the-song.

Live in the along.

Ms. Brooks makes clever use of metaphors in the above poem. To help students stretch their creative thinking with writing metaphors, they will engage in a “Synectic Summary” activity. They will be given sheets with the question, “How is an oppressor like a car?” or “How is an activist like a video game?” Given also a matrix with suggested parts, students will be asked to supply a sentence of explanation into each section.



The next step of this lesson is for students to formulate metaphor couplets. They will use these comparison ideas to create metaphors in the first line, and explain why in the second. Frameworks may be given to assist students, such as with the following couplet:

_____ is a _____	Activism is a steering wheel
It (<u>Does what?</u>)	It leads you to where you're going

Next, students will prepare to read and study Dr. King's *Letter From Birmingham Jail*. They will first be introduced to the following poem and related activities. They were chosen for the theme of racial prejudice and discrimination, to correspond to Dr. King's letter.

from Who Look at Me

June Jordan

Who see the block we face
the thousand miles of solid alabaster space
inscribed keep off keep out don't touch
and Wait Some More for Half as Much?

What does the “block” symbolize? What would such solid alabaster look like? Students will work individually, or in small groups to create drawings and inscriptions lining this space of which Jordan speaks.

Following the reading and study lessons for the Dr. King letter, students will read the following poem.

Strong Men

Sterling A. Brown

*They dragged you from homeland,
They chained you in coffles,
They huddled you spoon-fashion in filthy hatches,
They sold you to give a few gentlemen ease.*

*They broke you in like oxen,
They scourged you,
They banded you,
They made your women breeders,
They swelled your numbers with bastards....
They taught you the religion they disgraced.*

*You sang:
Keep a-inchin' along
Lak a po' inch worm....*

*You sang:
Bye and bye
I'm gonna lay down dis heaby load....*

*You sang:
Walk togedder, chillen,
Dontcha git weary....
The strong men keep a-comin' on
The strong men get stronger.*

*They point with pride to the roads you built for them,
They ride in comfort over the rails you laid for them.
They put hammers in your hands
And said—Drive so much before sundown.*

*You sang:
Ain't no hammah
In dis lan',
Strikes lak mine, bebbly,
Strikes lak mine.
They cooped you in their kitchens,
They penned you in their factories,
They gave you the jobs that they were too good for,
They tried to guarantee happiness to themselves
By shunting dirt and misery to you.*

*You sang:
Me an' muh baby gonna shine shine
Me an' muh baby gonna shine.*

The strong men keep a-comin' on

The strong men git stronger....
They bought off some of your leaders
You stumbled, as blind men will....
They coaxed you, unwontedly soft-voiced....
You followed a way.
Then laughed as usual.

They heard the laugh and wondered;
Uncomfortable;
Unadmitting a deeper terror....
The strong men keep a-comin' on
Gittin' stronger....

What, from the slums
Where they have hemmed you,
What, from the tiny huts
They could not keep you from—
What reaches them
Making them ill at ease, fearful?
Today they shout prohibition at you
“Thou shalt not this”
“Thou shalt not that”
“Reserved for whites only”
You laugh.

One thing they cannot prohibit—
The strong men...coming on
The strong men gittin stronger.
Strong men....
Stronger....

This poem, *Strong Men*, echoes the rhythms of song- both blues and Negro spirituals. Perhaps, one or two recordings can be played for the class before reading this poem. Students will be asked to identify and highlight the lines of the poem indicated as what the strong men sang. They should enjoy reciting this poem with the highlighted lines sung. Groups of 3-4 students will be given time to practice and plan a group recitation of the poem. They must decide who and how each stanza of the poem will be read or sung.

Students will also be asked to complete a RAFT writing activity for this poem. They will first need to choose a role (strong man, “them,” speaker), an audience, a format (poem, letter, diary entry), and a time period (present, future, 1940). They will then write the piece in response to the poem.

Teachers may choose to substitute the poems shown here for ones more suited to their needs or preferences. A brief selection of other possible poems may be found in the appendix.

Following the above lessons, students will be given the task of completing a culminating project. The final project must surround either one theme or one poet presented throughout the unit. Included in each student project, should be original work from at least 3 different literary genres. Their work may be in response to poetry or poets, or following styles. The teacher should provide as many possibilities and examples as possible. The presentation of their projects may be displayed on poster board, or by utilizing any computer application available, such as iMovie or PowerPoint. Students will require time and resources for researching, as well as for creating this final project.

A few examples for student choices follow:

- A letter to a poet
- A letter from one poet to another poet
- An article or editorial highlighting a poet
- An autobiographical poem
- Diary entries
- Video recitation of a poem set to music
- slide show of related scenes as backdrop to poem recitation
- Comic book of a poet's life
- A poet's resume

Appendix 1: Additional poems

Injustice

These Yet to Be United States

Maya Angelou

Tremors of your network
cause kings to disappear.
Your open mouth in anger
makes nations bow in fear.
Your bombs can change the seasons,
obliterate the spring.
What more do you long for?
Why are you suffering

You control the human lives
in Rome and Timbuktu,
Lonely nomads wandering
owe Telstar to you.
Seas shift at your bidding,
your mushrooms fill the sky,
Why are you unhappy?
Why do your children cry?

They kneel alone in terror
with dread in every glance.
Their nights are threatened daily
by a grim inheritance.
You dwell in whitened castles
with deep and poisoned moats
and cannot hear the curses
which fill your children's throats.

Resistance

from Who Look at Me

June Jordan

In part we grew
with heroes who could halt a slaveship
lead the crew
like Cinqu'e (son
of a Mendi African Chief) he
led in 1839

the Amistad Revolt
from slavehood forced
a victory he
killed the captain killed the cook
took charge
a mutiny for manhood
people
called him killer but
some
the Abolitionists
looked back at robbery
of person
murdering of spirit
slavery requires
and one
John Quincy Adams (seventy-three)
defended Cinque who
by highest court decree
in 1841 stood free
and freely he returned
to Africa
victorious

Midway

Naomi Long Madgett

I've come this far to freedom and I won't turn back.
I'm climbing to the highway from my old dirt track.
I'm coming and I'm going
And I'm stretching and I'm growing
And I'll reap what I've been sowing or my skin's not black.

I've prayed and slaved and waited and I've sung my song.
You've bled me and you've starved me but I've still grown
strong.
You've lashed me and you've treed me
And you've everything but freed me,
But in time you'll know you need me and it won't be long.

I've seen the daylight breaking high above the bough.
I've found my destination and I've made my vow;
So whether you abhor me
Or deride me or ignore me,

Mighty mountains loom before me and I won't stop now.

Racial prejudice and discrimination

Harlem

Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore –
And the run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over –
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

Appendix 2: Lists for starter ideas

Concepts

Racism

Freedom

Boredom

bargain

unity

death

urgency

foundation

romance

Adjectives

gorgeous

greedy

brown

dreamy

weary

tragic

blue

natural

perfect

Places

Philadelphia

city

country

prison

Africa

ghetto

street

hell

heaven

resistance

civil

basement

Appendix 3

Pennsylvania Standards

1.1.11 Learning to read independently: **A-** Locate various texts, media and traditional resources for assigned and independent projects before reading; **D-** Identify, describe, evaluate, and synthesize the essential ideas in text; **H-** Demonstrate fluency and comprehension in reading.

1.2.11 Reading critically in all content areas: **B-** Use and understand a variety of media and evaluate the quality of material produced; **C-** Produce work in at least one literary genre that follows the conventions of the genre.

1.3.11 Reading, analyzing and interpreting literature: **A-** Read and understand works of literature; **B-** Analyze the relationships, uses and effectiveness of literary elements used by one or more authors in similar genres including characterization, setting, plot, tone, theme, point of view, and style; **C-** Analyze the effectiveness, in terms of literary quality, of the author's use of literary devices; **D-** Analyze and evaluate in poetry the appropriateness of diction and figurative language; **F-** Read and respond to nonfiction and fiction including poetry and drama

1.4.11 Types of writing: **A-** Write short stories, poems and plays; **B-** Write informational pieces; **C-** Write persuasive pieces.

1.5.11 Quality of writing: **G-** Present and/ or defend written work for publication.

1.6.11 Speaking and listening: **A-** Listen to others; **B-** Listen to selections of literature; **F-** Use media for learning purposes.

1.8.11 Research: **B-** Locate information using appropriate sources and strategies; **C-** Organize, summarize and present the main ideas from research.

Annotated Bibliography

Teacher Resources

- Angelou, Maya. The Complete Collected Poems of May Angelou. New York: Random House, 1994. This book includes all of the published poems by this author, including her 1993 inaugural poem, "On the Pulse of Morning."
- Bloom, Harold, ed. African American Poets Phyllis Wheatley through Melvin B. Tolson. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 2003. This book provides background and biographical information, critiques of ten major African American poets. Poetry spans the periods between 1765 through 1999, and provides listings of works by and about the poets.
- Bloom, Harold, ed. African American Poets Robert Hayden through Rita Dove. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 2003. This book provides background and biographical information, critiques of ten major African American poets. Poetry spans the periods between 1948 through 2002, and provides listings of works by and about the poets.
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. Selected Poems. New York: Harper Perennial, 1963. This volume of poetry presents poems selected from three of the author's earlier books that are no longer in print (*A Street in Bronzeville*, *Annie Allen*, and *The Bean Eaters*).
- Poetry in the WORDshop. Larry Gross. 1995. 2 Sept. 2001
<http://thewordshop.tripod.com/forms.html>. This site provides definitions and examples of various poetry forms and the terminology used within this genre.
- poets.org. Academy of American Poets. 1997.
<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/59>. This website offers hundreds of links to poetry in print and audio, as well as information on poets. It offers useful lessons and activities for educators.
- Rampersad, Arnold, ed. The Oxford Anthology of African American Poetry. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Inc., 2006. An extensive collection of African American poetry, divided into fifteen thematic sections.
- Wormeli, Rick. Summarization in Any Subject: 50 Techniques to Improve Student Learning. Alexandria: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2005.

Student Resources

- Chapman, Abraham, ed. Black Voices An Anthology of Afro-American Literature. New York: Nal Penguin Inc., 1968. This classic anthology provides the reader with a variety of poems by each of the two dozen poets included. As well, there are writings of fiction, autobiography, and literary criticism.

- Globe Book Company. African American Poetry. Paramus: Globe Book Company, 1993. This student anthology provides poetry divided into six thematic sections. It provides biographical sketches, a glossary, and questions for thought at the end of the book.
- Holt Rinehart Winston. African American Literature. Austin: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1998. In this student textbook, poems are presented in most of the dozen units. Illustrations and explanations of literary terms and techniques are given throughout, as well as in appendices.
- Holt Rinehart Winston. Elements of Literature fifth Course. Austin: Harcourt Brace & Company, 2005. In this student textbook, intended for eleventh grade, collections of literature are presented by historical eras, with themes and political points of view sections within each of these collections.
- Instant Poetry Forms. Alysa Cummings. 1997-2005. ETTC of Burlington. <<http://ettcweb.lrk12.nj.us/forms/newpoem.htm>>. This website offers students an opportunity to explore various forms of poetry. It is an interactive site, which allows them to create poems as well.
- Jordon, June. Who Look at Me. Toronto: Fitzhenry & Whiteside Limited, 1969. This book presents poetry by this poet, which may be taken as separate poems, or one long poem. The book is brilliantly illustrated throughout with paintings from renowned collections.
- PoemHunter. <http://www.poemHunter.com/>. This website contains databases for poems, poets, lyrics, and song artists.
- Poetry by Langston Hughes. You Tube. 2009. <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyqgwvC5s4n8>>. This site offers numerous videos of poetry being recited with music, drama, and/ or visuals. It offers links to many different videos of poems performed by poets, actors, and novices.
- poets.org. Academy of American Poets. 1997. <http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/59> . This website offers hundreds of links to poetry in print and audio, as well as information on poets.