

Freedom Lesson: Freedom to Be Me

Fifth Grade

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Freedom to Be Me

Standards

Information Literacy

Benchmark A	Benchmark C	Benchmark D	Benchmark E
6, 7	1	1, 4	1, 2, 5, 8, 9

Objectives

Students will examine how hard fought it is to achieve freedom and compare it to their own upcoming emancipation.

Students will discuss ways in which those who were not free receive assistance from others.

Suggested Readings

Fradin, Dennis, and Judith Fradin. 5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight from Slavery. Washington, DC: National Geographic Children's Books, 2006.

Kulling, Monica. Escape North! The Story of Harriet Tubman (Step-Into-Reading, Step 4). New York: Random House Books for Young Readers, 2000.

Lewis, H.B.. Freedom Like Sunlight (Creative Paperbacks). Mankato: Creative Editions, 2003.

Rappaport, Doreen. Freedom River. New York: Jump At the Sun, 2007

Fitzgerald, Stephanie. Little Rock Nine: Struggle for Integration (Snapshots in History). Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2006. LC214.23.L56 F57 2007

Moore, Cathy. The Daring Escape of Ellen Craft (On My Own History). Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2002. E450.C79 M66 2002

Lyons, Mary E. Letters from a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs. New York: Simon Pulse, 2007.

Williams, Jean Kinney. Bridget "biddy" Mason: From Slave to Businesswoman (Signature Lives). Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2002.

Week 1

Read aloud some of the selections from Freedom like sunlight. How is freedom like sunlight?

Working in groups students will examine the lives of several people who had to struggle to gain personal freedom. They will list the common theme that each person had in their personal battle.

Working as a whole the class will identify the 3-5 most common components that each person struggle against.

Week 2

The students will divide into 3-5 groups (the same number as the common components) and work to create an “underground station” that will help the rest of the group to succeed this challenge.

Week 3

Students will experience the different “stations”.

Week 4

Reflect back on the lives of the people the students learned about during this unit. How did the people know they have achieved “freedom”? How will you know when you are grown up?

Students will critique the experience and relate this to growing up and how they can be a support system to each other in middle and high school.

They will have the opportunity to role play different scenarios about growing up. Discuss what it means to be accountable.
