

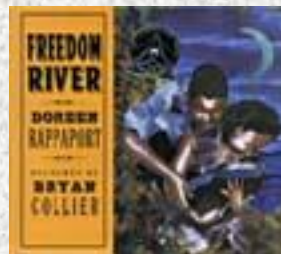
Lesson Length: 2 days - 30 min. ea.
Subject: Underground Railroad
Grade: 3rd –Reading Resource Room
Topic: Cinquain Poems- John Parker

Objective: 1. Students will be able to describe the Underground Railroad, the terminology associated with it, and John Parker's role in aiding enslaved people to freedom.
2. Students will create cinquain poems about John Parker and the Underground Railroad.

Connections: 1.4 Students make sense of the various messages to which they listen.
1.11 Students write using appropriate forms, conventions, and styles to communicate ideas and information to different audiences for different purposes.
2.14 Students understand the democratic principles of justice, equality, responsibility, and freedom and apply them to real-life situations.
2.20 Students understand, analyze, and interpret historical events, conditions, trends, and issues to develop historical perspective.
2.22 Students create works of art and make presentations to convey a point of view.

Materials:

The children's book Freedom River by Doreen Rappaport



Question sheets for Freedom River
Sample of cinquain poetry
Rules for a cinquain poem
Cinquain poetry form
Pencils/Crayons

Procedures:

Day One:

1. Teacher will give background information about John Parker and the Underground Railroad.
2. Teacher will go over Underground Railroad vocabulary:
passenger- a slave
agent – a person who arranged passage for slaves
conductor – a person who helped and sheltered slaves
depot/terminal – safe places such as houses and churches
packages – another term for a slave
midnight – Detroit, MI
Jordan River – Ohio River
Canaan – Canada (the Promised Land)
Grand Central Station – the cities of Cincinnati and Covington
3. Teacher will read the book, Freedom River to the students. Discuss events and characters from the book.
4. Students will work in pairs to find the answer to the questions listed below:
 1. Why would John Parker hire slave-owner Jim? Why would Jim Shrofe work for an ex-slave?
 2. Why did Parker take a risk that put his life in danger?
 3. Why did Parker feel responsible for Sarah being separated from her baby?
 4. Why did Parker tell Jim Shrofe that he had never seen his shoes before?
 5. Explain the meaning of: skiff; taunt; plantation; Underground Railroad.
5. As a whole group, discuss the answers to the questions listed above.

Day Two:

1. Teacher will write John Parker's name on the top of a piece of chart paper.
2. Students write nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs on the chart paper to describe John Parker and his work.
3. Teacher will review the characteristics of a cinquain poem.

Lines	Parts of Cinquain Poem	Syllable Cinquains	Word Cinquains
Line 1	Title	2 syllables	1 word
Line 2	Description of the title	4 syllables	2 words
Line 3	Some action about the title	6 syllables	3 words
Line 4	Feeling about the title	8 syllables	4 words
Line 5	Synonym (similar word) for title	2 syllables	1 word

line 1 = One noun of 2 syllables

line 2 = Adjectives with a total of 4 syllables that describe the noun

line 3 = Words showing action and having a total of 6 syllables (-ing words)

line 4 = Words with a total of 8 syllables that tell how you feel about the noun

line 5 = Another noun of 2 syllables that makes you think of the first noun

4. Teacher will give an example of a cinquain poem.

Slaves
Desperate, sad
Escaping, running, hiding
Worried, hopeful, sympathetic
Packages

5. Using the words from the chart tablet, students will work in groups of two or three to create a cinquain poem about John Parker.
6. Students will decorate their poetry sheet.
7. Students will share their poems.

Student Assessment:

Students will be assessed by the rubric below according to their answers to questions on Day 1 and the cinquain poems that they create on Day 2. Only a score of two or higher will be accepted because of the small number of students in the reading resource room and the extra teacher help available.

Rubric for Response Activity

4	3	2
Correctly and completely answers all questions	Correctly answers all questions	Correctly answers most of the questions
Writes a complete cinquain poem about the Underground Railroad	Writes a cinquain poem about the Underground Railroad	Attempts to write a cinquain poem about the Underground Railroad

Resources:

<http://www.abcteach.com/Writing/cinquain.htm>

<http://www.doreenrappaport.com/index.html>

Cinquain Poetry Form

(Title)

(Description)

(Action)

(Feeling)

(Synonym)