

Name: Stephanie Sparks

Lesson Length: 53 min.

Age: 7th Grade

Subject: Language Arts

Topic: Underground Railroad

The Path to Freedom



Objectives:

Students will be able to elaborate about the harshness of slavery.

Students will predict what life was like for a slave child.

Students will draw connections between the life of a slave and their own lives.

Students will interpret song lyrics to understand the struggles of slavery.

Context:

This lesson is part of a six-week unit on the harshness of slavery and the slaves desire and quest for freedom. This follows lessons on the slave trade and slave auctions. This precedes a comprehensive lesson on the Underground Railroad.

Materials/ Technology:

Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman by Alan Schroeder and Jerry Pinkney; CD player; CD *Steal Away: Songs of the Underground Railroad*; transparency, overhead markers; overhead; copies of song lyrics.

Students will need a pencil and paper.

Procedures:

1. Teacher will instruct the students to imagine they lived during the time of slavery. Students are to pretend they are a 12 or 13-year-old slave. They are to do a brief journal on what they think a typical day would be like. (8 minutes)
2. Students will share and discuss their responses. (5 minutes)

3. Teacher will read *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman* by Alan Schroeder and Jerry Pinkney aloud to the class. (10 minutes)
4. Class discussion about the story. (5 minutes)
5. Teacher will review Venn Diagrams. (2 minutes)
6. Students will complete a Venn diagram comparing themselves with “Minty”. (5 minutes)
7. Students will share similarities and differences and discuss as a class. (5 minutes)
8. Teacher will point out references to The Drinking Gourd made in the book. (2 minutes)



9. Teacher will hand out lyrics to the song “*Follow the Drinking Gourd*” and students will follow along as they listen to a version of the song. (5 minutes)

Student Assessment:

Students will ultimately be evaluated based on participation during this unit.

Today’s individual lesson will be scored the following way:

10 points for journal entry

10 points for completion of Venn diagram

10 points for class participation.

Follow up/Homework:

Tomorrow’s lesson will have the students illustrate part of the song “Follow the Drinking Gourd”