Teacher Adaptations

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Segregation History / Pre-unit study of The Underground Railroad

Description of activity:

Prior to the segregation unit, students study slavery and the underground railroad so they can see the events that lead up to segregation

Day 4

Students read “Read Naturally” story, Slavery. (This story explains how African Americans came to the United States.) (Read story during reading 20 minutes)

- During social studies students do Read Naturally activity:
- Students write: How do you think children should be treated? Make a list of rules for how all children should be treated. Make as many rules as you want. *These rules can be used with Activity #2 when you do the Segregation unit.

Day 5

Read the Read Naturally story, The Underground Railroad. Read If You Traveled on the Underground Railroad to students.

- Students create a story titled Harriet Tubman on the Underground Railroad.
- In the shape of a train, children write the story and draw illustrations, with each train car a different page in the story.

(During reading and social studies 45-50 minutes.)

Day 6

Read Follow the Drinking Gourd to students.

- Students complete Escape to Freedom story and activity. (During reading and social studies 45-50 minutes.)

Day 7

Read Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt.

- Refer to Underground Railroad Poster. Students research each quilt pattern to share with the class. Each pattern had special meaning to the slaves.

Resources:

- “Read Naturally” stories contact at email: READNAT@aol.com
Reflection on student learning outcomes:

This is a good activity to introduce children to how slaves were treated, and to create student empathy for African Americans’ experience in and attempts to escape from slavery.