



Teacher Adaptations

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The Addy Books

Description of activity:

The Addy titles, from the American Girl Series, have direct correlations to the entire unit. Below is a list of each book in the series with a summary and correlations.

Book 1: Meet Addy

Summary: Addy is about nine years old living on a slave plantation. When Addy's family is split up, Addy and her mother run away to freedom on the Underground Railroad.

Key terms:

- ❖ Shackles
- ❖ Drinking gourd

Peek Into the Past (history background at the end of the story):

- ❖ *The Underground Railroad
- ❖ *President Lincoln declares war

Book 2: Addy Learns A Lesson

Summary: Addy and her mother arrive in Philadelphia after their escape from slavery. Addy is so excited to finally be able to attend school, which is a black *segregated institution*. As Addy learns to read, she also teaches her Momma. The *Freedmen's Bureau* helps Addy and her mother find a place to live, a job for her mother, and a school for Addy.

Key terms/concepts:

- ❖ Segregation
- ❖ Freedmen's Bureau
- ❖ Freedom isn't really free

Peek Into the Past:

- ❖ *Freedmen Schools



Book 3: Addy's Surprise

Summary: Addy continues to go to school and works after school making deliveries for Mrs. Ford's dress shop. At the end of the story, Addy and Momma are reunited with Poppa.

Peek Into the Past:

- ❖ *Holidays were difficult during this time because of the Civil War and money shortages.
- ❖ *Emancipation Proclamation
- ❖ *African-American holidays

Book 4: Happy Birthday Addy

Addy, Momma, and Poppa move into a boarding house. Addy talks to her poppa about segregation and people's prejudices. Addy encounters prejudice and segregation while trying to buy medicine for a lady who lives in the boarding house and when visiting an ice cream shop. White contractors will not hire Addy's father as a carpenter because he is black.

Key terms:

- ❖ Segregation
- ❖ Prejudice

Peek Into the Past:

- ❖ *The War Is Over/What Life Was Like for African Americans

Book 5: Addy Saves the Day

Summary: Addy and her family plant a garden to try and earn money so that Poppa can travel back to Master Steven's Plantation to look for the rest of their family. Addy's church is sponsoring a fair to earn money for families to find each other. At the end of the story, Addy is reunited with her brother Sam, who lost an arm fighting in the Civil War.

Key terms:

- ❖ Quaker Aid Society

Peek Into the Past:

- ❖ *Factories and pollution create sanitation problems in growing cities.
- ❖ *Highlight on City Parks and Memorial Statues in the parks.
- ❖ *Sports....Negro Leagues



Book 6: Changes For Addy

Summary: Addy's family receives a letter from a lady serving in the Freedmen's Bureau about Lula, Solomon, and Baby Esther; they are on their way to Philadelphia. When Addy finds Lula and Esther, the family learns Solomon was not strong enough to make the trip. He died. A few days later, Lula passes away. Addy understands freedom has its costs. At the New Year's Eve Celebration, Addy reads the Emancipation Proclamation.

Peek Into the Past:

- ❖ *Amended the Constitution
- ❖ *Freedom and citizenship for African Americans (13th, 14th, 15th, 19th Amendments)
- ❖ *Freedmen's Bureau (medical help and schools)
- ❖ **Meet Addy: An American Girl (American Girls Collection)** (Melodye Benson Rosales (Illustrator), et al; 1993, Pleasant Company Publications)
- ❖ **Addy's Surprise: A Christmas Story (American Girls Collection)** (Melodye Benson Rosales (Illustrator), et al; 1993, Pleasant Company Publications)
- ❖ **Addy Learns a Lesson: A School Story (American Girls Collection)** (Melodye Benson Rosales (Illustrator), Connie Rose Porter; 1993, Pleasant Company Publications)
- ❖ **Changes for Addy: A Winter Story (American Girls Collection)** (Bradford Brown (Illustrator), et al; 1994, Pleasant Company Publications)
- ❖ **Addy Saves the Day: A Summer Story Book 5 (American Girls Collection)** (Bradford Brown (Illustrator), Connie Rose Porter; 1994, Pleasant Company Publications)
- ❖ **Happy Birthday, Addy!: A Springtime Story (American Girls Collection)** (Luann Roberts Smith, et al; 1994, Pleasant Company Publications)