

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*

Author: Deborah Hopkinson

Grade: 3

Summary: Clara, a slave, knows that the Underground Railroad can lead her to freedom. By piecing together scraps of cloth with scraps of information gathered from the other slaves she makes a map so secret that even the masters won't suspect.

LANGUAGE ARTS CONNECTION

1. How did Clara Feel about being away from her mother? How do you know she felt this way?
2. If you were Clara would you try to escape from the plantation?
3. Tell some good reasons for escaping. Tell some bad things that could happen if you tried to escape.
4. Tell about your favorite place. Why is this your favorite place?
5. Listen to the song "Follow the Drinkin' Gourd". Discuss how each verse gave the slaves clues to help them escape.
6. Do you think that Clara and Jack will get caught?
7. Will Clara's mother come with them? Why or why not?
8. What was Clara's surprise when she saw her mother? Was it good or bad?

VOCABULARY/SPELLING

calico	clumsy	contrary	favorite	freedom	knotted
patterns	plantation	quarters	scraps	seamstress	sew
shivering	stitches	tomorrow	twelve		

LIBRARY CONNECTION

1. Other related books:
The Quilt Story by Tony Johnston
Luka's Quilt by Georgia Buback
The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flournoy
The Josefina Story Quilt: The Josefina Story Quilt by Eleanor Coerr
Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt by Lisa Compbell Ernst

SCIENCE/MATHEMATICS CONNECTION

1. Read *Shooting Stars* by Franklyn M. Branley. Discuss what they are made of and what happens when they hit the Earth. Ask your students to make a list of three wishes they would ask for if they saw a shooting star.
2. Clara's Aunt Rachel wanted her to follow a pattern while she was making her quilt. Have your students correct and complete different patterns.

SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTION

1. Make a map from our classroom to the playground. Include a key with your map.
2. Research Harriet Tubman. How did she help slaves?