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Children's Literature Unit

Prepared for 4th or 5th Grade

Focused on the Theme of Progress

Dr. Walker

Fall 2008

A Bus of Our Own Assessment

1. How did Mable Jean get to school?
 - A. She took an airplane.
 - B. She rode a scooter.
 - C. She walked.*
 - D. She took a train.
2. Who did Mable Jean go to school with?
 - A. Her mother
 - B. Her brother *
 - C. Her sister
 - D. Her father
3. How did the white children get to school?
 - A. In a bus*
 - B. In an airplane
 - C. On a train
 - D. They walked
4. How did Mable Jean get hurt?
 - A. She fell.
 - B. She got poison ivy.
 - C. She hit her head.
 - D. She got stung by bumblebees. *
5. Who did Mable Jean ask to find/ get her a bus?
 - A. Her grandma
 - B. Cousin Smith *
 - C. Her neighbor
 - D. Jeff
6. How far is Mable Jean's school from her home?
 - A. 25 miles
 - B. 1 mile
 - C. 5 miles *
 - D. 100 miles
7. What is the main character's name?
 - A. Brian
 - B. Jeff
 - C. Jacob
 - D. Mable Jean *
8. What does the word 'community' mean?
 - A. An interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location *
 - B. School
 - C. People that all want to live in the same house
 - D. A tropical climate

9. What race were the characters in this story?
- A. African American *
 - B. Chinese
 - C. Mexican
 - D. Japanese
10. This story was based on _____ events.
- A. Silly
 - B. Unrealistic
 - C. Fake
 - D. Real *
11. What is the main problem in this story?
- A. Mable Jean can't ride to school on a bus because she is African American.*
 - B. Mable Jean doesn't like school.
 - C. Mable Jean's mother is sick.
 - D. Mable Jean doesn't get along with her family.
12. What does the word 'segregation' mean?
- A. The separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area *
 - B. Together
 - C. A word for family in the Nineteenth Century
 - D. An area of town where there are many farms
13. What is a 'cistern'?
- A. A bed
 - B. An artificial reservoir for storing liquids, especially water *
 - C. A toilet
 - D. A town
14. Who was the author of this book?
- A. Miss Lapinsky
 - B. Freddi Williams Evans*
 - C. Joshua Adams
 - D. Shel Silverstein
15. How is the problem in this story resolved?
- A. Mable Jean rides her bike to school instead of walking to school.
 - B. The white children walk to school too.
 - C. Cousin Smith bought a bus for the students to ride in to get to school. *
 - D. Mable Jean decides not to go to school anymore.
16. How did they fix up the old school bus?
- A. They bought a new bus.
 - B. They sold the old bus.
 - C. They decided that the children should walk instead of taking a bus.
 - D. Everyone in the community helped fix it up. *

17. What did Cousin Smith buy for the students?

- A. A bus*
- B. A toy
- C. A car
- D. A bike

18. Who had to pay for the children to ride in the bus?

- A. Their teacher
- B. Their parents*
- C. The school
- D. The farmer

19. Where does this story take place?

- A. Alabama
- B. New York City
- C. North Carolina
- D. Rural Mississippi*

20. What word best describes Mable Jean?

- A. Persistent *
- B. Lazy
- C. Unmotivated
- D. Stubborn

D is For Drinking Gourd Assessment

1. This story is based on a/an _____ American Alphabet.
 - A. Asian
 - B. Mexican
 - C. Africa*
 - D. Japanese
2. What holiday do African Americans celebrate?
 - A. Kwanzaa*
 - B. Hanukkah
 - C. Flag Day
 - D. Civil War Heroes Day
3. Before the 1960's many schools in the southern states were _____.
 - A. Integrated
 - B. Closed down
 - C. Being rebuilt
 - D. Segregated *
4. What was the March on Washington?
 - A. A party
 - B. A civil rights demonstration to support equal rights*
 - C. A parade
 - D. A memorial
5. The most famous speech from the March on Washington was by _____.
 - A. Bill Clinton
 - B. Franklin Roosevelt
 - C. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*
 - D. Rosa Parks
6. Dr. King was awarded the _____.
 - A. The Caldecott Medal
 - B. Prize
 - C. Pulitzer Prize
 - D. The Nobel Peace Prize *
7. Malcolm X was a/an _____.
 - A. Activist*
 - B. Lawyer
 - C. Construction worker
 - D. Bus driver

8. Why did African Americans move from the south to the north during the Great Migration?
 - A. They were looking for their family members who moved north.
 - B. They were looking for new houses.
 - C. They needed better medical attention.
 - D. They were looking for jobs and a better education.*
9. What does the word 'abolitionist' mean?
 - A. A person that supports ending slavery*
 - B. A person that likes to eat apples
 - C. A person that lives in Alabama
 - D. A person that supports ending equal rights
10. The most famous African American newspaper was written by Frederick Douglas and Martin Delany. What was the name of this newspaper?
 - A. The Northern Light
 - B. The Shining Light
 - C. The North Star*
 - D. Up North
11. What constellation was called the Drinking Gourd that slaves used to help guide their way North?
 - A. Canis Major
 - B. The Big Dipper*
 - C. Vela
 - D. Orion
12. The word 'emancipation' means _____.
 - A. To be alive
 - B. To be happy
 - C. To be free *
 - D. To be educated
13. Which President issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863?
 - A. President Clinton
 - B. President Lincoln*
 - C. President Reagan
 - D. President Roosevelt
14. The most important trumpet soloist in the history of jazz had the nickname of "Satchmo."
Who is this?
 - A. Benny Goodman
 - B. Glenn Miller
 - C. Miles Davis
 - D. Louis Armstrong*

15. Why was Rosa Parks arrested?
- A. She refused to move to the back of the bus.*
 - B. She shoplifted.
 - C. She was homeless and slept on a park bench.
 - D. She stole a bus.
16. _____ has been a tradition passed down through many generations.
- A. Scrapbooking
 - B. Painting
 - C. Quilting*
 - D. Gardening
17. _____ were pilots during World War II. They gained international fame for escorting American bombers over enemy territory.
- A. The Fighter Pilots
 - B. The Tuskegee Airmen*
 - C. American Airmen
 - D. The Flying Fighters
18. _____ eliminate poll taxes and racial restrictions on voting allowing African Americans the right to vote.
- A. The Equality Act of 1963
 - B. The African American Voting Act
 - C. The Elimination Act
 - D. The Voting Rights Act of 1965*
19. Before the Civil War _____ was a place that did not allow slaves and was often called the Promised Land.
- A. Mexico
 - B. Puerto Rico
 - C. Canada*
 - D. Europe
20. _____ was known as a 'conductor' that led over 300 slaves to freedom.
- A. Harriet Tubman*
 - B. Oprah Winfrey
 - C. Malcolm X
 - D. Rosa Parks

Sounder Assessment

1. Who is Sounder?
 - A. A sheriff
 - B. The boy's father
 - C. A dog*
 - D. A bird
2. Why did the boy give up going to school?
 - A. He didn't like it.
 - B. It was too long and cold to walk 8 miles to school.*
 - C. He got very sick.
 - D. He already learned everything and didn't need to go back.
3. What happened to the boy's dog?
 - A. He fell.
 - B. He got shot.*
 - C. He got lost.
 - D. He was sold to a man in town.
4. What happened to the boy's dad?
 - A. He left to find work in the city.
 - B. He got arrested.*
 - C. He got sick.
 - D. He decided that he wanted a divorce and left.
5. What was the main goal that the boy had for his life?
 - A. He wanted to learn to read.*
 - B. He wanted to learn how to ride a bike.
 - C. He wanted to get a good job in the city.
 - D. He wanted a family.
6. How would you describe the family in this story?
 - A. Wealthy
 - B. Happy
 - C. Funny
 - D. Poor*
7. The boy felt _____ when visiting his father in jail.
 - A. Happy
 - B. Sad*
 - C. Nothing
 - D. Surprised
8. Why was his father in jail?
 - A. He sold their dog.
 - B. He hitchhiked.

- C. He stole a ham from the big house.*
 - D. He got into a car accident.
9. Who befriended the boy?
- A. A storekeeper
 - B. A milkman
 - C. The baker
 - D. A teacher*
10. What did the teacher want to help the boy with?
- A. He wanted to help the boy find a job.
 - B. He wanted to give him money.
 - C. He wanted to teach the boy to read.*
 - D. He wanted the boy to sell him chickens.
11. After Sounder got hurt he stopped _____.
- A. Eating
 - B. Playing
 - C. Running
 - D. Barking*
12. What did the family gather to sell?
- A. Chestnuts*
 - B. Rocks
 - C. Wood
 - D. Sea shells
13. When the boy's father came home what happened to Sounder?
- A. He ran away.
 - B. He was able to bark again.*
 - C. He caught a cat.
 - D. He still wouldn't bark.
14. Why did the boy's father get out of jail early?
- A. The charges were dropped.
 - B. He became ill and they sent him home.
 - C. He was hurt in a dynamite blast.*
 - D. The boy's mother became very ill.
15. What happened to both Sounder and the boy's father?
- A. They ran away.
 - B. They moved out.
 - C. They passed away.*
 - D. They went to the city to get food for the family.
16. What was the main theme of this book?
- A. Progress*
 - B. Family
 - C. Life Cycle
 - D. Justice

17. What does the word 'sharecropper' mean?
- A. A farmer in the southern United States who works the land, and who receives an agreed share of the value of the crop minus charges*
 - B. A farmer that shares his crop with the community
 - C. A farmer that sells his crop for a lot of money
 - D. A farmer that keeps all of his crop and doesn't let anyone buy it
18. How would you describe the boy in this story?
- A. Persistent*
 - B. Gleeful
 - C. Uncooperative
 - D. Lazy
19. When did this story take place?
- A. The Twentieth Century
 - B. The Nineteenth Century*
 - C. The Twenty-first Century
 - D. The Eighteenth Century
20. How did the boy get the dog Sounder?
- A. The boy stole him from a farm
 - B. His family raised dogs and Sounder was a puppy that they kept.
 - C. He came to him on the road as a pup.*
 - D. Someone dropped Sounder off at the boy's house

Sounder Anchor Paper

Expository Prompt:

The boy in this story had a goal to learn how to read. Think about a goal that you have for your life. Tell about your goal and explain the steps on how you plan to achieve it.

Just like the boy in this story I too have goals that I would like to accomplish. One goal that I have is to continue my education. I want to be able to get a Master's Degree. I am still undecided as to what area I would like to get my Master's Degree in. I am deciding between a degree in Education or in Occupational Therapy. I really enjoy both areas and this will be a difficult decision.

Continuing my education is very important to me. First I need to finish by Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Then I need to decide what area I would like to get a Master's Degree in. Next I need to decide what college I would like to go to. After that I need to take the required courses and complete my degree. I know that this will be a lot of work but I will feel very proud when I achieve my goal.

A Bus of Our Own Anchor Paper

Persuasive Prompt:

Persuade your readers why Mable Jean should be allowed to ride on the bus. Give 3 reasons that support the way you feel.

I feel that Mable Jean should be allowed to ride on the bus. I don't think that it is fair that Mable Jean isn't allowed to ride on the bus just because she is African American. I feel that everyone is equal and everyone should be allowed to ride on the bus. I think that if I were Mable Jean I would be very sad if people treated me differently because of the color of my skin. Because I feel sad thinking about how Mable Jean is being treated I think that she should be allowed to ride the bus so she doesn't feel bad about herself. I don't think that it is right to exclude someone from doing something just because of the color of their skin. In American everyone is to be treated equally.

D is for Drinking Gourd

Anchor Paper Poem

Students will write a poem about an African American person that helped the African American culture progress in history. Students may choose the type of poem that they would like to write and may also choose the person they would like to write about. Students may choose a political figure, a sports figure, an entertainer, or anyone else that they would like.

See attached poem

D is for Drinking Gourd

Reading- Each student will read 1 page of this book out loud.

Writing- Each student will choose a page of this book and write their own description.

Listening- Students will actively listen while their classmates read the book and their writing out loud to the class.

Speaking- Each student will read out loud their piece of writing to the class.

Viewing- The students will look at the newly compiled A-Z class book, and take turns bringing it home.

Visually Representing- Students will each create a 'quilt' out of material or construction paper.

Fine Arts- Each student will choose a page of this book that they would like to illustrate a picture for. All of the pages will be compiled into a new A-Z book.

A Bus of Our Own

Reading- Students will 'popcorn' read this story.

Writing – Students will write at least 3 paragraphs explaining how they would feel if they were Mable Jean and couldn't ride the bus because she was African American.

Listening- Students will actively listen to their classmates read aloud.

Speaking- Students will read aloud the paragraphs that they wrote.

Viewing- Students will visit www.rosaparks.org

Visually Representing- Students will create a diorama representing a section of the book.

Fine Arts- Students will use watercolor paints and make their own cover for this book. Students will then present their paintings to their classmates. The paintings will then be hung in the hallway.

Sounder

Reading- Students will take turns reading aloud to each other in small groups.

Writing- Students will write a paragraph describing what they think the boy's adult life may be like.

Listening- Students will take turns reading aloud to each other in small groups. The students that are not reading will practice actively listening.

Speaking- Students will be involved in a discussion about how they would feel if they were the boy in this story.

Viewing- Students will view a 10 minute clip of the movie Sounder.

Visually Representing- Students will make a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting their life and the boy's life.

Fine Arts- Students will draw a picture depicting their favorite part of this book.