

Jenny Zetah

Fannie Lou Hamer: A Woman of Courage

Grades 3-5 English Language Learners

English Language Proficiency Standard 5: English language learners communicate information, ideas and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Social Studies

Learning Targets:

Students will describe the courage of an important leader of the Civil Rights Movement, Fannie Lou Hamer.

Students will reflect on how/when they see themselves or others acting courageously and why that is important.

Resources:

[Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford

Courage in the Civil Rights Movement:

[PowerPoint Presentation from National Civil Rights Museum](#)

Personal photos from Fannie Lou Hamer's memorial park in Ruleville, MS

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

http://www.negrospirituals.com/songs/this_little_light_of_mine.htm

Video of Fannie Lou Hamer's 1964 Congressional Testimony

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07PwNVCZCcY>

Video of Civil Rights Movement from Discovery Education

<https://app.discoveryeducation.com/learn/videos/A1BC44A7-14E1-467F-9D05-AF67B77AD418?hasLocalHost=false>

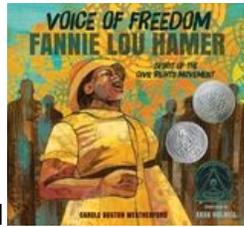
Learning Activities:

Elicit background knowledge: Ask students to share what they know about the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, slavery. View the video segment "Civil Rights Movement" on Discovery Education website to give everyone an overview of the time. Students share with partners what they noticed, felt, and questioned. Encourage students to share with the whole group using 10 finger sentences strategy.

Ask: What is courage? (bravery) Tie back to the Civil Rights movement and ask how those who participated were courageous or brave.

Hang up a poster of Fannie Lou Hamer on the board. Introduce the read aloud book about her and ask students to listen in order to discover the ways Mrs. Hamer was courageous.

Read aloud: Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement



by Carole Boston Weatherford

This book is loaded with rich imagery and history and will take time to get through. I will be using videos, music, photos, and realia (e.g. cotton stalks, voter registration test) to help my EL students understand the content. We will stop often to talk about her courage and write/draw on sticky notes and post these examples alongside the poster.

End by sharing this quote from the book: “The truest thing we have in this country at this time is little children....If they think you’ve made a mistake, kids speak out.” Fannie Lou Hamer

Questions to ask: Do you think this is true? Do you ever speak out when you see something wrong? Does someone you know do this? How does this show courage?

To apply this lesson to the real world, students will have the opportunity to use their voices in one of two ways:

They can write a postcard/letter to someone to share their feelings about an injustice they’ve noticed.

They can write a thank you letter to a person who has shown courage.

Additional Resources:

