

Deanna Sanders

June 2023

Rationale and Development

I am currently a special education teacher who services 3-5th grade students. My students all have severe and profound disabilities. They are cognitively delayed and intellectually delayed. Most of my students are autistic and I have a few with physical impairments as well.

All of my students are brilliant. They are smart and curious. The traditional curriculum does not make sense to my students. In my teaching, I have found that the most effective way for my students to access the curriculum is through the Arts. They want to know, they seek to know “all the things.” It is up to me to present materials in a way that is appropriate to their individual needs. And honestly, isn't that how we all learn best.

Years ago I wrote a STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) curriculum and taught it in one of the highest performing elementary schools in Chicago. I serviced Kindergarten through 8th grades for one hour per week. Using student inquiry and design, students create an anchor project, called Challenges, to illustrate their individually developed essential question. Each quarter there was a new course theme. My lesson will use a similar inquiry and design format with primary sources being elders in the student's community.

Lesson Overview

Students will create a Story Log of TRUTHS from the VOICES of your elders. The log(s) will document snapshots of oral histories from the stories that they have collected from those important elders within their community.

The log may be crafted as a smooth pillar, elegant bough, or gnarly branch.

The voices of this week, either direct quotes or a paraphrase, that have been impactful and have sparked my critical lens during this phase of my life journey are throughout my lesson presentation. These voices are the oral histories, the truths, to be included in my personal Story Log of **The Most Southern Place on Earth**.

Truth through their own Voices

Preserving Oral History

“Do you know who you are? You are from greatness.”

- *June Montgomery*

If you let them talk, they will tell you their truth

“They don’t tell stories like they used to... if you don’t ask, you won’t know.”

- *Promised Land*
A Story about Mound Bayou

... giving our flowers in life rather than in death

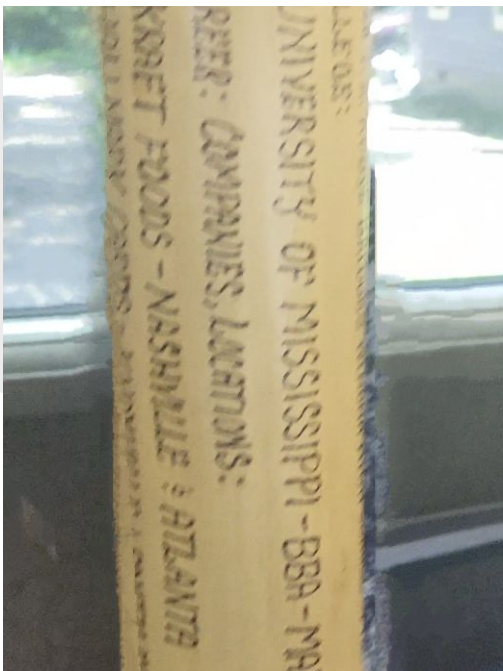
“Every family has a story to tell”
- Rev Parker

STEAM Story Log Challenge:

Create a Story Log of TRUTHS from the VOICES of your elders. The log(s) will document snapshots of oral histories from the stories that you have collected from those important elders within your community.

The log may be crafted as a smooth pillar, elegant bough, or gnarly branch.

Story Log



“Don’t hide history”

- *Voices From the Sit-In*

Can't talk about the truth, "THE" truth, I felt shame.

**Within first-person narratives -
Stories reveal universal truths**

... I'm sure he wrestled with given' up his own boy or Emmett
(referring to Moses Wright)

**The blues is real, it's the
truth everything else is not
real.**

**“Racism hasn't gone anywhere,
it's still there. It's just that it
looks different.”**

- Rev. Wheeler Parker

"THEY WEREN'T REALLY 'OUR KIND OF PEOPLE'"
- JEWISH IMMIGRANT

**"The Blues is Music born
from pain"**
- Bill Abel

**"When there is a large
population of blacks in the
county the white people
seemed to fight change
harder."**
- Voices From the Sit-In

"The blues is music of joy."
-Bill Lester when discussing the
Frolickin' House (heard again by
Eric Clapton)

**"When you get old you forget the bad and only
remember the good."**
- Bill Lester

"This generation doesn't even know I was..."

**I didn't say we were historians, we are
just storytellers**

**You can kill the dreamer
but you cannot kill the
dream**

**- Rev Samuel
"Billy" Kyle**

**"I'd much rather deal with the racism
head-on [in the south]"**

**"Everyday people were able to create "The
Movement"**

**Don't be mad you don't HAVE a movement.
Be happy you don't NEED one.**

“Change comes slowly”

**Ms Mobley made America deal with its ugly
racial problem by having an open casket.
Can't ignore if you see it.**

The movement taught us strategy.
We organized. Set up systems and
offered friendly options.

- Charles McLaurin

Beat the system at their own game

I didn't talk about it for 30 years because I was bitter...

“He challenged us to do something important in the movement”

Strategize & Organize

- Charles McLaurin

*If you're early, you're on time.
If you're on time, you're late.
If you're late, you're left.*

“We all just got along”

- 3 immigrant representatives' responses to questions of relations with the Black community

“Every person's humanity must be valued”

During the Civil Rights Movement, “we stayed quiet and laid low.”

legal segregation vs cultural segregation

Who defines identity?

**Re: The Delta and
Clarksdale**

“we are edgy & gritty”

STEAM Engineering Process

