



A Lesson on Gwendolyn Brooks, An African American Poet by Abigail Morales

Grade Level: Grade 4

Subject Area: English Language Arts

Lesson Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Lesson Keywords: <http://www.biography.com/people/gwendolyn-brooks>

Lesson Description: During this lesson students will learn reading skills, vocabulary, critical thinking, and reading comprehension. The students will read the short passage individually. Then the teacher will reread the passage out loud and discuss it. Students will be able to answer and ask questions regarding vocabulary and reading questions that will be presented. We will then have a class discussion on the importance of literature.

Common Core Standards Covered with This Lesson

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Lesson Content: Book/Story/Reading Passage

Instructions: Please read the following reading passage as many times as needed (aloud and silent) before starting to go through other lesson pages. Understanding the content of this passage is very important since the lesson activities will be all about this content. Feel free to print the passage if needed.

Gwendolyn Brooks, An African American Poet

by

Content: Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was a highly regarded and a very honored woman. She was an American poet with the distinction of being the first black author to win the Pulitzer Prize. Her grandfather had been a slave, he was a brave man that escaped from slavery. Then he fought in the Civil War.

His son married a teacher. They lived in Kansas. When Gwendolyn Brooks was a baby, her family moved to Chicago. Gwendolyn went to Chicago public schools. She grew up in Chicago. She stayed here for the rest of her life. She visited many places. But she always came back to Chicago.

Gwendolyn Brooks enjoyed reading and writing. She wrote about her life. She wrote about Chicago. When she was just thirteen, she wrote a poem for a magazine. Later, she wrote more poems. They were printed in other people's books. When she was older, she wrote books of her own poems. She became a poet. She was well known in the United States. She was also well known in other countries. She won awards for her poetry.

It was not easy to get a job in writing. Gwendolyn worked for a while typing. She typed other people's words. But she wrote her own words, too. She wrote important poems. They were read by many people all over the world. Her poems made them think.

Gwendolyn Brooks was also a teacher. So she helped students think more. She taught college students in the Chicago area. What did she teach them? She taught them how important ideas are in poems. Many people learned from her in those classes.

Gwendolyn Brooks won prizes for her poetry. Every year, more people read them. They loved her poems. She is well known as a great poet. She is an important African American woman.

When she was 83, she became sick with cancer. In just a short time, she died. She died in 2000. She had done so much in her life. Her life is an important part of America's history. She left a great legacy.

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Task 1: Vocabulary

Instructions: Please complete the following vocabulary activity by choosing the correct meaning of each word selected from the passage and use of each word correctly in a sentence.

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Task 2: Forum Discussion

Instructions: This discussion forum will have questions for students to respond. Read the posted questions, and respond to each. Students are responsible for posting one initial and and two peer responses for each topic.

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Task 3: Writing Activity

Instructions: You are to write and post here 500 words essay on Make sure to provide specific examples.
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