

Story Hour with theREP Activity for Grades 3-5

The Book Itch by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

LEARNING STANDARD QUESTION:

Why is a character(s), or an object(s), in the story important?

Responses → books are important; freedom is important; equality is important; truth is important; reading is important; learning from books is important; learning about historical figures – both current and past – is important; knowledge is power.

ACTIVITY:

Students select one of the individuals from the pages below to read/learn more about. Students are then asked to make a portrait – a construction paper collage – of that person by tearing and pasting the construction paper to create that figure.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Construction paper; glue sticks; and the accompanying pages below.

SHARE YOUR CREATION!

theREP would love students to share photos of the portraits they create! They can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at mhall@capitalrep.org

The Book Itch mentions several prominent figures from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s – here are a few of the people who are still fighting for equality in 2020.



Stacey Abrams is an American politician, lawyer, voting rights activist, and author.

- She who served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2007-2017
- She served as minority leader from 2011-2017
- She is the first Black Woman in the United States to be the gubernatorial nominee of a major political party
 - **What does gubernatorial mean?** (*adjective*) - relating to a state governor or the office of state governor.
"a gubernatorial election"
- She was the first Black Woman to run for Governor in the State of Georgia

Check out these links for more information on Stacey Abrams:
<https://staceyabrams.com/>
<https://kpcnotebook.scholastic.com/post/one-one-stacey-abrams>

The Book Itch mentions several prominent figures from the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s – here are a few of the people who are still fighting for equality in 2020.

John Lewis was an incredible American civil rights leader and politician.

- He served in the United States Congress for more than 30-years.
- He was chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the mid-60s.
- He played a key role in the civil rights movement of the 1960s.
- Lewis passed away earlier this year (2020).

Check out the link below for more information on John Lewis!

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/John-Lewis/628642>



John Lewis receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama

In 1965 Lewis led more than 600 peaceful protestors across a bridge in Selma, Alabama, in response to local violence against civil rights activists. **The Edmund Pettus Bridge.** The protestors were attacked by law officers, and more than 50 people, including Lewis, were hospitalized. The day became known as “Bloody Sunday.” The event helped pass the Voting Rights Act, which outlawed the many ways used to prevent African Americans from voting.



Marching with Dr. King

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With his Daughters, Malia and Sasha

Barack Obama is the first African American President of the United States (2009 – 2017).

- 44th President of the United States
 - Two, of the many accomplishments from his presidency:
 - Health Care Reform – Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) – intending to help poor people afford health insurance and to provide quality health care for all Americans
 - Created a policy called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), calling for deferred action for certain undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children
- Served on the state senate from 1996-2004
- Graduate of Columbia University in NYC; and Harvard Law School
- Started the Barack Obama Foundation ins 2014 – a Chicago-based nonprofit – to address challenges and opportunity gaps that boys and young men of color face, providing support through mentoring, education, job training, and other activities

Check out these links for more information on Barack Obama:
<https://www.ducksters.com/biography/uspresidents/barackobama.php>
https://kids.kiddle.co/Barack_Obama
<https://www.obama.org/>



In the Oval Office at the White House



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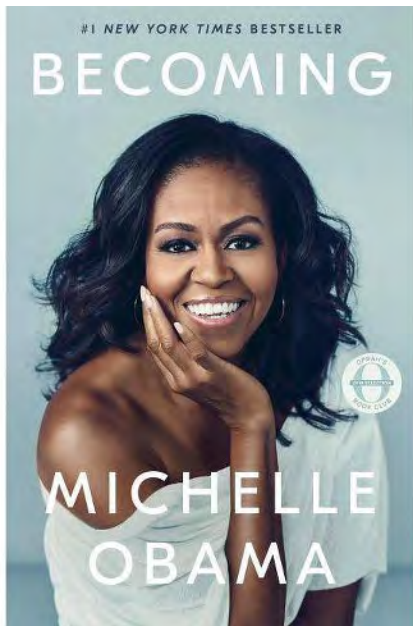
Michelle Obama is a former First Lady of the United States and the wife of the 44th president of the U.S, as well as being a lawyer and an author.

- She is the first African American First Lady of the U.S.
- In 2010 she launched the “Let’s Move!” campaign, with a goal to end obesity in children
- A Graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School

Check out these links for more information on Michelle Obama:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Michelle_Obama

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Michelle-Obama/574555>



The Obama Family



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Chadwick Boseman while many know him for his portrayal of, T'Challa - the Black Panther, Chadwick Boseman was also an outspoken activist providing inspiration to young Black Americans both on and off the Silver Screen.

- Boseman was a known activist and a promoter of the Black Lives Matter movement
- He was the first Black lead in a Marvel Cinematic Universe film
- Using the platform of “fame” - Boseman would often speak about the challenges faced by historical figures he portrayed
 - He would also speak to the challenges he faced, being a successful Black man in America
- A few of the historical figures Boseman played: baseball legend - Jackie Robinson; legendary R&B singer/songwriter - James Brown; Associate Justice/Lawyer – Thurgood Marshall;
- He is a Graduate of Howard University
- In addition to his success as an actor, Boseman was also a playwright and a director

Check out this link for more information on Chadwick Boseman:
https://kids.kiddle.co/Chadwick_Boseman

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Kamala Harris is a lawyer and politician, and currently the Vice President Elect.

- She is the First Woman, as well as the First Black and First Asian American, to be elected to the Vice Presidency
- She was elected to the United States Senate in 2016
- A Graduate of Howard University and the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco
- She was elected as the District Attorney for San Francisco in 2003, and was the first woman and first Black person to hold that position
- She has called for reforms to immigration and criminal justice policies
- She has campaigned for an increase to the minimum wage

For more information on Kamala Harris, check out these links:

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Kamala-Harris/631669>

https://kids.kiddle.co/Kamala_Harris



An image created to show the well-known Norman Rockwell (shadow) image of Ruby Bridges walking into a previously all-white school from the 1960s, and Kamala Harris now – as the fight for equality continues.

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The Reverend Al Sharpton is an American civil rights activist, Baptist minister, talk show host and politician.

- He is the founder of the National Action Network
- He hosts his own radio talk show, *Keepin' It Real*
- President Obama has called him “the voice of the voiceless and a champion for the downtrodden”
- He is also an author, and has written several books
- A Graduate of the City University of NY, Brooklyn

For more information on Al Sharpton, check out these links:

https://kids.kiddle.co/Al_Sharpton

https://wiki.kidzsearch.com/wiki/Al_Sharpton

