Story-time on Campus:
Using Children’s Literature to Foster Student Engagement

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Our Goals:

- Why use children’s literature
- How to use children’s literature
- Where to find children’s literature
Why read aloud children’s books in college classroom?

- Provides common experience
- Capture students’ attention
- Preview concept or theme
- Bridge to more complex concepts
• Engage emotions
• Raise difficult or sensitive issues
• Share something beautiful
How to Use to Children’s Books
Quick Write:
What do you know about the Civil Rights Movement?

What events took place during the Civil Rights Movement?
The poor and dispossessed take up the drums
For civil rights—freedoms to think and speak,
Petition, pray, and vote. When thunder comes,
The civil righteous are finished being meek.
Why Sylvia Mendez bet against long odds,
How Harvey Milk turned hatred on its head,
Why Helen Zia railed against tin gods,
How Freedom Summer’s soldiers faced the dread
Are tales of thunder that I hope to tell
From my thin bag of verse for you to hear
In miniature, like ringing a small bell,
And know a million bells can drown out fear.
For history was mute witness when such crimes
Discolored and discredited our times.
Freedom Summer

• James Chaney, 1943-1964
• Andrew Goodman, 1943-1964
• Michael Schwerner, 1939-1964

That day in June we stopped in Meridian. I reached in my pocket for the penny I called Hope. The Negro barber nodded, Y'all come back soon. In Longdale the KKK had burned down Mount Zion Church. We had left the inferno when Sheriff Price ordered us into a cruiser for a shortcut to county jail. With the odor of pee running down my pant leg, Mickey whispered, Don't expect that one phone call, and he was right. They fed us potatoes, peas, poke salad, and spoon bread. Our last supper. But once the Klan ambush was set up, the sheriff fined me $20, and told us, Git gone for good. Then the whole thin shimmer of our lives evaporated like smoke in a fog. Armed with cone-hat conviction and long-necked persuaders, the Klan rode in for last rites to the first rights of a gaunt trio. Flames licked the car as it sank under Bogue Chitto Swamp. After single shots to the heart had taken Mickey and Andrew, they'd saved three bullets for me. Freedom Summer is Farkorn Winter at the ragged end of living. And just before they pitched our bodies into earthen graves on Old Jolly Farm, I remember that my hand was in my pocket. I could still feel Hope.
Organizing thoughts, putting a face to history.
Strategy: Read a poem, write a poem
It’s a good thing I have my library card, because I’m totally checking you out!

**Speed Dating (with Books!)**
The hidden costs of war.
Red
A Crayon's Story

But he wasn't very good at it.
Ada’s Violin

The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay

SUSAN HOOD

Illustrated by SALLY WERN COMPORT
“Come out with your trunk up!”
She sings her song, and Pa listens hard.

Which Side Are You On?

The Story of a Song

By George Ella Lyon

Artwork by Christopher Cardinale

(till they break our backs)

That's our lives. They ain't.
“Those squirrels were greedy,” Big Rabbit said. “Always storing away things for themselves. Never sharing.”

“But why did the Terrible Things take them away?” Little Rabbit asked. “Do the Terrible Things want the clearing for themselves?”

“No. They have their own place,” Big Rabbit said. “But the Terrible Things don’t need a reason. Just mind your own business, Little Rabbit. We don’t want them to get mad at us.”
I WALK WITH VANESSA
A STORY ABOUT A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS

by Kerascoët
Where do I Find Great Books??

- ALA-American Library Association
  http://www.ala.org/
- Children’s Book Council
  https://www.cbcbooks.org
- GoodReads
  https://www.goodreads.com
- Guys Read
  http://www.guysread.com/books/
- No Flying No Tights
  http://www.noflyingnotights.com/
a Children's story which is only enjoyed by children is a bad children's story.

- C. S. Lewis
References


References

