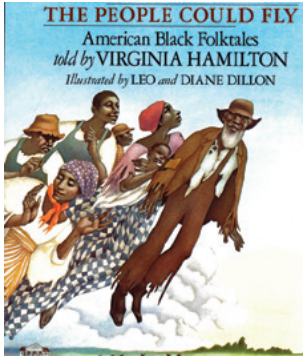


DIVISION Intermediate **GRADE** Seven **MONTH** December **THEME** Building Supportive Communities



BOOK TITLE:
The People Could Fly:
American Black Folktales

AUTHOR: Virginia Hamilton
ILLUSTRATOR: Leo and
Diane Dillon
PUBLISHER: Random House
Children's Books, 1994
ISBN-13: 978-0394869254

SYNOPSIS

The well-known author retells 24 black American folktales, including animal tales, supernatural tales, fanciful and cautionary tales, and slave tales of freedom.

Big Idea / Objective / Character Development Connection

Respect; Caring; Integrity; Perseverance

Suggested Activities and Culminating Tasks

- ▶ Brainstorm African-Americans' specific contributions to life and society in North America.
- ▶ Have students research one of the characters described in the folktales and present their findings to the class.
- ▶ Why are folktales important for social justice for all people? Have students write a journal entry.
- ▶ What importance does the theme of flying play in the different folktales? What do flying and freedom have in common? Have students create a journal entry about the power of flying in the role of a character in one of the folktales.
- ▶ Have small groups of students choose a folktale to learn and perform as a play for younger students.
- ▶ Use Check a Book for Bias Bookmark six (see the Teacher Resource Guide).

Extensions

- ▶ Have students communicate their thoughts and feelings about one of the illustrations using an art form of their choice (e.g., visual arts, drama, or dance).

Community Engagement / Related Resources

Go to the Black History in Canada Education Guide. Explore seminal events and personalities in Black Canadian history through engaging discussion and interactive activities.

<http://www.blackhistorycanada.ca/education.php>

MINISTRY EXPECTATIONS
English Language
Reading
7e26, 7e27, 7e37
Writing
7e49, 7e57, 7e58, 7e61

CURRICULUM CONNECTION EXPECTATIONS
The Arts
7a54, 7a56, 7a64

MATERIALS
- Picture book listed above
- Internet access
- Journals
- Check a Book for Bias Bookmark six
- Art supplies