

Play with a Purpose

Episode 3: Your Voice Can Stop the Rain

Grown-Up Guide

Book/Material

Harlem's Little Blackbird by Renee Watson | Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Concepts

Using your voice for good; the Harlem Renaissance

Words to Know:

Renaissance; Semantic

Main Activity

After the Free Write with Amy ("If my voice is powerful enough to stop the rain, what else can it do?"), expand upon the power of their voice. For older children: answer the question: How might you use your voice to stand up for fairness? Use real-life examples - big or small. For younger children, draw pictures of what their voice is powerful enough to do.

Follow Up/ Extension

1. Ask: What words describe Florence Mills? Have them fill out the LEI Semantic Map (or Word Map). Possible answers include: Brave, strong, talented, famous, determined, inspiring, creative, etc.
2. Create a poem that has a line for each word on the Word Map that begins with "Florence Mills was..." and have children complete with their descriptors.
3. Questions: How did the illustrations help you understand the book better? Which pictures or images do you remember from the book most? Why?



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Additional Resources

1. Other Books by Renee Watson: <https://www.reneewatson.net/>
2. Christian Robinson talks about his art form and reads one of the books he illustrated
<https://www.facebook.com/nytbooks/videos/1317145084982662/>

Video Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDv1Kp8T43Y>



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