

Donna Coleman
Realistic Fiction (Historical)
Dear Austin Letters from the Underground Railroad
Author: *Elvira Woodruff*

Reading/Language Arts

Standards: See Attached

Scope: Lesson 1 of a Unit (5 days)

Type: Literature Study

Introduction:

Dear Austin Letters From the Underground Railroad is the story of an 11-year-old boy, Austin who writes letters to his brother Levi. (This book is a sequel to **Dear Levi**, by Elvira Woodruff) Austin and his friend Jupiter, the son of a former slave, are trying to find Jupiter's sister, who was captured by slave traders. (See Attachment)

This unit will be used in conjunction with **The House of Dies Drear**, by Virginia Hamilton. (first lesson plan submitted)

Objectives: (Unit / Lesson)

1. Students read and comprehend a variety of literary genres.
2. Students discuss reading to enrich comprehension.
3. Students generate written projects.
4. Students share their writing.
5. Students inform others through reports.
6. Students respond to literature.
7. Students apply Standard English conventions, grammar and usage in writing.
8. Students participate in group activities
9. Students prepare and deliver individual and group presentations
10. Students listen critically.
11. Students use research skills
12. Students use technology for research and in presentations.

Procedures:

Day 1:

After the teacher reads aloud pg. 2, Letter (May 6, 1853) and discusses context clue strategies, students begin Contract activities 1, and 2 (see *attached Student Reading Group Contract*)

Day 2:

Students complete Contract activity 3. Vocabulary.

Day 3:

Students complete Contract activity 4 Writing.

Day 4:

Students complete Contract activities 5 and 6.

Day 5:

Literature Club Meetings (small group, student led discussions of the reading) and complete Contract activity 7.

Homework: Illustrate Contract activity 5.

Materials:

1. Book: Dear Austin: Letters from the Underground Railroad
2. Reading journals
3. Dictionaries
4. Reading Group Contracts
5. Reading Response Questions
6. Research topic lists
7. Calendar
8. Computers
9. Work sheets

Assessments:

1. Reading Group Contract Activities
2. Research Project
3. Spelling test
4. End of unit Culminating Activity

Supplementary Materials

Encarta Africana

The House of Dies Drear, by Virginia Hamilton

Voices of Carolina Slave Children, by Nancy Rhyne