

Jabari Dreams of Freedom

by
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Study Guide

Recommended for ages 8+

Jabari Dreams of Freedom follows a young Chicago boy's journey from fear to hope.
#theatre #children #racereactions #civilrights #newwork #blacklivesmatter



1. Jabari Dreams of Freedom Welcome!

Welcome to Nambi E. Kelley's Jabari Dreams of Freedom directed by Daniel Carlton with musical direction by Joe Plummer. This guide is designed to help students comprehend and unpack the events of the play with the help of discussion questions, activities, and lessons for use in the classroom both before and after the performance. By sharing these materials, we hope to enrich your students' theatrical experiences.

2. Theatre Etiquette

Greetings, you are about to see a theatre performance!

For weeks before you see this performance of Jabari Dreams of Freedom director, actors, stage manager, and designers have been working extremely hard to make this performance happen. They are all excited to share their work with you so it is important to keep a few things in mind.

For Live theatre performances!

- Please enter the theatre quickly and quietly.
- Please no talking or whispering during the performance. This is distracting not only to your classmates and fellow audience members, but it is also distracting to the actors on stage.
- Please turn off your cellphones.
- Please no food, drinks, or gum allowed in the theatre.
- Please use the bathroom before the performance.
- Enjoy yourself and have fun!

3. Jabari Dreams of Freedom Story

JABARI DREAMS OF FREEDOM is a play to save young Black lives from living life through fear. This 45 minute dream, a play for ages 8 and up, uses rap, freedom songs, hip hop dance, history, and humor to tell the story of a young Black boy from the South Side of Chicago who is afraid to leave the house. 10 year old Jabari loves to paint. With his Forever President Barack Obama as a guide, Jabari escapes the violent reality of a friend hurt by random violence and the turbulent world around him through his colorful paintings where he meets children from the past who teach him how to be fearless. He then meets his hero, Barack Obama, as a 7 year old boy on the eve of the assassination of MLK, Jr. Will Jabari be able to instill in 7 year old Barack the lessons he's learned and therefore ensure that Barack will have the necessary tools to become president? Will he learn to take these lessons back into his own life and heal his community? This play explores through the lessons of the children of the Civil Rights Era what it means to have courage in a world where Black boys, Black children, are not safe.

4. The Civil Rights Movement Introduction – Did you know?

- The movement to obtain civil rights for Black Americans has had special historical significance and is often referenced to as The Civil Rights Movement.
- Although American slaves were emancipated as a result of the Civil War and were granted basic civil rights through the passage of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments to the U.S. Constitution, they struggled to secure federal protection of these rights continued during the next century.
- Through nonviolent protest, the civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s broke the pattern of public facilities' being segregated by "race" in the South and achieved the most important breakthrough in equal-rights legislation for African Americans since the Reconstruction period from 1865–1877.

5. Bringing Civil Rights Back to You

DIRECTIONS: After reading these questions, please write a short response to the question the question.

- Have you ever stood up for a friend. If so, how did you stand for them?
- Have you ever been afraid of something, if so what?
- Have you ever fought for something you believed in?
- Have you ever made a new friend before? If so, how was that experience like for you?
- Have you ever dreamed something so big that you achieved it? If so, what did you dream of and how did you achieve this goal?

6. Meet the Characters!

Match each character with their appropriate description. Each character will have one description. Please write the correct Letter next to their name.

_____ PRESIDENT BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA

_____ EMMETT TILL

_____ CLAUDETTE COLVIN

_____ JABARI

_____ DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

_____ RUBY BRIDGES

- A. The first African-American girl who wouldn't give up her seat on the front of the bus.
- B. A hip, cool 10 year old Black boy, the protagonist of the play who loves to paint, but does not love the lessons of the Civil Rights Movement.
- C. The 44th and first African-American President of the United States of America. He is the son of a chocolate man from Kenya and a vanilla woman from Kansas.
- D. Delivers "I Have a Dream" speech in front of more than 200,000 people under the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. He voiced his belief that someday all men could be brothers.
- E. The first young African-American child to go to an all white school in Louisiana.
- F. Chicago child who started Civil Rights. Or rather, his death did.

7. Civil Rights Movement Timeline

- A. March 2nd, 1955 - Claudette Colvin is the first person arrested for resisting bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama.
- B. Spring 1960 - Ruby Bridges was the first African-American child to attend an all-white elementary school in Louisiana during the 20th century.
- C. May 2nd, 1963 - Children's Crusade of 1963 was a march by hundreds of school students in Birmingham, Alabama. Many children left their schools and were arrested, set free, and then arrested again the next day.
- D. August 28, 1963- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivers his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in front of more than 200,000 people under the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial. He voiced his belief that someday all men could be brothers.

8. Civil Rights Movement Interesting Facts

Did you know that the main aim of the civil rights movement, which peaked in the 1960s, was to give everybody equal rights to all people regardless of color skin color, gender, nationality, religion, disability or age and that they are protected by the law. Also, did you know that.....

- President John F. Kennedy initially proposed the Civil Rights Act?
- The 1968 Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination in selling or renting houses?
- Today, African-Americans have been elected or appointed to the highest positions in the U.S. government including Secretary of State Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice and President Barack Obama?
- Jabari's name means "fearless"?

DIRECTIONS: Please complete the following word search for fun!

E	E	X	S	E	C	S	C	V	T	Z	N	V	E	Q
J	T	M	P	M	D	R	J	E	E	H	I	E	D	A
P	E	T	M	V	D	Y	K	R	E	F	L	A	A	O
J	R	Y	E	E	J	F	S	M	X	K	S	V	A	Y
X	C	X	I	D	T	V	N	O	N	A	C	W	R	B
B	Q	K	H	B	U	T	V	T	O	Z	D	U	D	D
W	O	B	C	B	E	A	B	A	S	V	B	J	Y	H
R	G	K	N	E	B	Z	L	C	U	Y	X	S	X	O
X	T	S	T	J	A	I	Q	C	G	P	T	A	G	J
F	W	A	H	F	X	V	M	G	R	B	P	A	O	X
N	O	I	T	A	G	E	R	G	E	S	C	D	B	B
W	L	J	A	B	A	R	I	Q	F	I	R	G	A	A
E	L	W	P	F	G	X	K	K	H	E	W	I	M	H
Q	N	T	G	M	V	G	P	C	Y	G	D	A	A	B
F	O	B	B	X	N	G	O	J	O	C	E	O	G	L

CHICAGO CLAUDETTE EMMETT FERGUSON JABARI OBAMA
RUBY SEGREGATION

10. Traditional Negro Spiritual Songs

Traditional Negro Spiritual songs are highly influenced by the music of their actual cultural environment. The very first Negro spirituals were inspired by African music even if the tunes were not far from those of hymns. Some of them were accompanied by dancing including hand clapping and foot tapping. As traditional Negro spirituals continued to be sung all over the country, new songs were created that dealt with praising the Lord, with personal improvement and community life. Many of these new songs were inspired by social problems such as segregation. During the Civil Rights era, Negro spirituals like “We Shall Overcome”, “Oh Freedom” and “This Little Light of Mine”, and “Lift Every Voice and Sing” were sung to provide hope for African Americans moving forward towards freedom for civil rights. These songs had to deal with Black people being free and during the Civil Rights Era people were fighting for freedom. It is a cry for liberation and affirmation of African-Americans. They sing these songs to remind them that they can do anything and that they can become the best of the best.

OH FREEDOM!

Oh, freedom, Oh, freedom
Oh freedom over me
And before I'd be a slave
I'd be buried in my grave
And go home to my Lord and be free

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE!

This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine
I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine

WOKE UP THIS MORNING

Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on freedom
Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on freedom
Woke up this morning with my mind
Stayed on freedom
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah.