

Unit I: Human Behavior

Grade Levels: 6-8

Time: 90 minutes

Lesson MI-2: Another View of an American Moment

Objective:

Students will analyze and evaluate specific examples of problems arising out of diversity in America.

Key Terms:

Bystander

Human Rights

Integration

Jim Crow Laws

Perpetrator

Segregation

Upstander

Victim

Materials:

- Copy of *Forrest Gump* (teacher needs to obtain the film) - Little Rock 9 scene from *Forrest Gump* of girl walking into school when she dropped her books (chapter 4 of the video at approximately minute 23);
- photographs of sit-ins and protests found at web sites:
www.american.edu/bgriff/H207web/civrights/sit-ins1963.gif

Activities/Procedures:

1. Show the clip from *Forrest Gump* and have students write their reactions to this movie clip.
2. Students will identify the terms bystander, perpetrator, collaborator, victim.
3. Instruct students that they will view the movie clip a second time and identify the key terms that were just reviewed.
4. Discussion questions will arise from defining the roles. Suggested questions include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Why was there such hatred aimed at these children?
 - b. Why does Forrest Gump help?
 - c. Does Forrest see just the little girl or the entire picture?
 - d. What is the power of one person?
 - e. Is there more than "one" in this clip?
 - f. Who is empowered in this clip?
 - g. Are you able to divide the group into "us" and "them?"
 - h. Who is afraid in this clip?
 - i. What is the cause of their fear?
 - j. How are they handling this fear? (not only the victim but also the perpetrator?)
5. If the video *Forrest Gump* is not available, use photographs that may be found in the websites listed under materials above and in Teacher Resources below to implement this lesson. Many of the same questions listed above but slightly rephrased may be used with the photographs.

Evidence of Understanding:

Independently or in small groups, students will brainstorm and identify specific examples of problems arising out of diversity in America. For each example, students will identify victim, bystander, upstander, perpetrator, and collaborator.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service

1. Research the lives of Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Massery. Fifty years later in 2007, where were the two women and what were they doing? How did this event shape their lives? Did their views of one another change? Explain.
2. Identify an upstander in your community and write about that person.

Teacher Resources:

Little Rock 9

Teachingtolerance.org – this site offers a wide variety of resources and free materials that would be helpful for teaching these issues. This organization also offers a free magazine that addresses issues.

Splcenter.org – this is the web address for the Southern Poverty Law Center. There are a wide variety of resources including information on modern hate groups.

Centralhigh57.org – this is a web site that deals with the integration of schools in Little Rock. There are biographies of the Little Rock 9 as well as activities and lesson plans.

Library.thinkquest.org – this site has information on the Little Rock case as well as suggested activities.

Jim Crow Laws

Jimcrowhistory.org – this site has a good historical background of the Jim Crow laws as well as other teacher resources.

Afroamhistory.about.com – this site has background on the Jim Crow laws as well as links to other sources. There are also pictures of America during segregation as well as signs from that era.

Pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/ – this site has not only information on the Jim Crow laws but also stories related to them.

Segregation

Remembersegregation.org – this is an interactive site that helps people understand the issues that went along with segregation.

Pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/ –this site has the story as well as teacher resources.

Loc.gov/exhibits/brown/brown-segregation.html – this is a Library of Congress site that deals in detail with the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case.

Emmett Till

The Emmett Till case is discussed on the afroamhistory.about.com site in detail, including pictures.

Pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/ – this site has the story as well as teacher resources.