

LESSON PLAN



Teacher

Grade Level: 3-5

**Time Allotted
for Lesson: 60 min.**

Subject(s)

English Language Arts & Social Studies

Compelling Question

How have Kentucky's Black authors used their writing to share their experiences and impact their communities?

Supporting Questions

- Who are some significant Black authors from Kentucky?
- What themes or messages are present in their work?
- How do these author's writings reflect their experiences in Kentucky?

Central Focus of the Lesson

Students will explore the works of Kentucky's Black authors to understand how literature reflects cultural identity, experiences, and history.

Context for Learning

This lesson is designed for a diverse classroom where students may or may not be familiar with Kentucky's Black history or authors. It aims to foster an appreciation of local literature while connecting it to broader themes of identity, resilience, and culture.

Kentucky Academic Standard(s)

RL.3.1, RL.3.2, RL.3.3, RL.3.6, RL.4.1, RL.4.2, RL.5.1, RL.5.2, RL.5.6

Success Criteria/Learning Outcomes

- I can identify and analyze themes in the works of Kentucky’s Black authors.
- I can explain how an author’s life impacts their writings.

Primary/Secondary Sources

- Selected poem
- Read aloud storybook

Formative Performance Task

Students will analyze a selected poem or excerpt, identify its main theme, and explain how it relates to the author’s background or historical context.

Vocabulary

Heritage, Perspective, Identity, Poetry, Excerpt, Culture, Resilience

Accommodations

Provide digital versions of printed texts, brainstorm sentence starters as a class to help answer questions and analyze the text.

Differentiation

Group work for collaborative learners. Independent reading and reflection for students who prefer working individually. Advanced learners can research additional Kentucky's Black authors and present their findings.

Technology and Materials

Digital copies of the text and an audio recording of the book; guided questions for analyzing theme.

Relevant Background Information for Teachers

Teachers should familiarize themselves with the authors and their works, especially Frank X. Walker's Affrilachian poetry and Crystal Wilkinson's exploration of family and rural life. Understanding the historical context of Black experiences in Kentucky will enhance discussions.

Lesson Activities

Introduction (10 minutes):

Intro [Vocab](#)

Use the [slides](#) to present the compelling question and introduce authors

Alternatively, the teacher may choose to print these slides out or assign them digitally to students to have them read individually or as small groups.

Exploration (20 minutes):

[Read and discuss a selected poem or excerpt.](#)

Use [guiding questions](#) to analyze themes.

Application (15 minutes):

Students [write a reflective piece](#) on how the themes in the text relate to their own lives or communities.

Discussion (10 minutes):

Share reflections in small groups or as a class.

**Taking Informed
Action/Extension Activity**

Compare and contrast some of the different texts you read. Are there any major similarities or differences you notice?

Create a poster or digital presentation highlighting a Black Kentucky author and their work.

Create your own poem or short story about an important part of your life.

Check out Frank X. Walker's children's book *A is for Affrilachia* from your library.