

Rob Matlock Most Southern Place on Earth Lesson Plan

Photos collected in part by Debra Cole
Lesson Title: Introduction of Setting through Primary Source Analysis
Unit: <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i>
Grade Level: 5-8
Estimated time requirement: 1-2 class periods
Summary (25-50 words): This activity is designed to introduce the literary element of setting. The setting of this novel (1930's, Mississippi) provides an excellent opportunity to explore those elements of society which led up to the Civil Rights movement, as well as the effects of the Great Depression on various segments of the population.
Objectives:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the elements of setting (time, place) for this novel by drawing on prior knowledge. Identify and explore the historical elements of the setting – Great Depression, World War 1 experiences, Civil War, sharecroppers, and Jim Crow laws – as elements which led to the Civil Rights movement of the 50s and 60s, Great Migration, juke joint, night riders
Assessment:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will find and write answers to questions from web-based research
Materials:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keynote presentation Photo analysis of school photos - archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet.pdf Web search instruction and question worksheet Music analysis- http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/sound.html Skip James, "Hard Time Killin' Floor Blues"http://www.stlyrics.com/lyrics/obrotherwhereartthou/hardtimekillingfloorblues.htm The sliding notes and slow pace is reminiscent of slave music, but the lyrics emphasize the movement of African Americans in search of a better life and an increasing anger about racism and poverty. The song represents the continuing oppression of African Americans during the Great Depression of the 1930s, a time when Jim Crow laws and lynchings were part of daily life in the segregated South.
Procedures:
This activity is done before reading the book. Show the Keynote presentation. Discuss setting as an element of fiction and the setting of this novel in particular. Pass out the instruction worksheets, students will conduct the research and answer the questions independently.

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Comment:
 ROB MATLOCK Jun 16, '10, 4:41 AM

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Technology

- Keynote
- Internet research

Family Connection:

Homework: Ask a family member (parent, grandparent, etc...) who lived prior to desegregation what they remember about their community, school, work, church, etc... before the Civil Rights movement. Students will share these memories at the end of the week.