African and African-American Summary and Lesson Plan

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Africans and African-Americans have been marginalized in so many ways. I had known about how people of color were persecuted through slavery and the lack of human rights. I had heard the stories about how fire hoses were turned on those who opposed the status quo, children were beaten and killed, and countless other horrible atrocities were inflicted upon the African-Americans. These stories are enough to make someone sick with sadness, but I hadn’t even known about the mental torment that continues today.

African-American women are often not proud of how they themselves look. Being labeled for so long can have drastic effects on one’s psyche. George Herbert Mead’s theory regarding labeling showed that telling someone something about themselves can sometimes cause that label to become true through the actions and thoughts of the labeled person (Boundless, n.d.). We can see this when one looks at the black doll, white doll experiment (redone recently here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EivX77ORIIs>). Psychological damage has been done in such a way that some African-American children believe that a white doll (person) is nicer, prettier, and better.

## Lesson Plan

### Snappy Launch

Watch this video together:

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EivX77ORIIs>

### Objectives

Students will be able to explain ways in which African-American children have been the product of a marginalized people group. Students will write a creative letter to Martin Luther King Jr. posing as a white child who was previously persecuting African-Americans but is now going to join the Civil Rights movement.

### Procedure

#### Think-Pair-Share

Why do you think African-American children feel the way they did in the experiments you saw? Where do you think the children learned to think the way they did?

#### Watch the following clips

* <http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement/videos/sylvia-woods-freedom?m=528e394da93ae&s=undefined&f=1&free=false>
* <http://www.biography.com/people/fred-shuttlesworth-21389361#synopsis>

#### Read the following articles

* <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/historyculture/delaware.htm>
* <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/05/02/how-the-children-of-birmingham-changed-the-civil-rights-movement.html>

#### Assessment

After seeing all the content, students will have to write a letter to Martin Luther King, Jr. from the perspective of a white boy who was previously against African-American rights, but now has a change of heart and wants to join the civil rights movement.

##### Rubric:

1. 15 points for three examples of events the child participated in or feels bad about.
2. 5 points for a formal apology for the child’s behavior in the past.
3. 5 points for explanation of some behavior the child has done.
4. 1 point for one page long.
5. 5 points for mentioning which specific rights the child will begin to fight for.
6. 5 points for continuity of story and out-of-the-box creative writing.