

Exploring African American Culture Through Literature

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Abstract:

My intentions are to have my autistic support students in elementary school experience African American culture through literature. Students will gain respect for Africans and African Americans, eradicate misconceptions and stereotypes, and understand that African Americans have played a role in the history of Philadelphia.

I have sought to develop a unit in which I will use a variety of children's books, both fiction and non-fiction, to increase students' awareness and appreciation of African-American culture and history. With this unit I intend to give students the opportunity to develop comprehension skills and to read and respond to fiction stories that reflect their ethnicity. Most importantly, students will experience reading as an enjoyable activity.

The theme explored will be African American culture through literature. The population targeted is a Black group of third, fourth, and fifth graders who have a limited background in Black History. The unit is intended to familiarize students with Black writers/storytellers, their works and the impact that their works have left on the Black family and society.