

GRACE ABOUNDING

The Core Knowledge Anthology of African-American Literature, Music, and Art



Editor's Note

About the Teacher Resource Kits

For each of the four major literary units in *Grace Abounding* there is a corresponding Teacher Resource Kit, which includes Lesson Plans, Reading Check Tests, Vocabulary Tests, and answer keys. Please find the forementioned sections in the bookmark tab of your Teacher Resource Kit PDF.

Copyright Information.

The purchase of a Grace Abounding Teacher Kit grants to the teacher (Purchaser) the right to reprint materials as needed for use in the classroom. For instance, Student Handouts and other assessments may be reproduced as needed by Purchasers for use in the classroom or as homework assignments. Materials in the Teacher Kits may not be reproduced for commercial purposes and may not be reproduced or distributed for any other use outside of the Purchaser's classroom without written consent from the Core Knowledge Foundation.

Lesson Plans

With the lesson plans, teachers can target major language arts objectives while giving students exposure to important African-American writers, thinkers, and activists.

The first page of each lesson plan is for the teacher's reference only and should be used in planning for a day's lesson. The first page usually includes basic information about the lesson (e.g., objectives, time allotment, and content), a "mini-lesson" that contains basic information and terminology the students should know as well as examples for the teacher to write on the board and use as the basis of discussion and instruction.

Each lesson also contains at least one **Student Handout** and often two or more. The expectation is that teachers will make photocopies for all students. **Please note that these are not designed to be used as assessments but rather as instruction tools.** In many cases, depending on students' familiarity with a particular topic, teachers may decide to complete the Student Handouts as a class or in small group. Others can be assigned as homework, but generally it is assumed that the students will be allowed to access *Grace Abounding* and other resources (e.g. dictionaries or grammar books) when completing the exercises. However, if students are familiar with a topic, such as independent vs. dependent clauses, then teachers are encouraged to use the handouts for review or as assessments. In short, teachers are expected to use the lesson plans as they see fit in their classrooms.

There is a lesson plan for every literary selection in *Grace Abounding*; these lessons can provide a strong foundation for a language arts curriculum, particularly in grades 5–9. A lesson plan is based on its corresponding literary selection but it is not necessarily directly related to it. For example, Lesson 1.5 covers personal pronouns, and the Student Handout that accompanies the lesson. Please refer to the Table of Contents at the front of each Lesson Plans section for specific grammar, writing, and research topics. Generally, the lessons increase in complexity as you move from Unit 1 to Unit 4 in the book. However, the Teacher Resource Kits have been designed with the knowledge that most teachers will not be teaching *Grace Abounding* from cover to cover; therefore, the lesson plans are designed to give teachers maximum flexibility as they integrate *Grace Abounding* into various parts of the curriculum.

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Reading Check Tests

All reading checks contain three parts: one page of basic recalling questions, one page of interpreting questions, and a short assessment essay.

These are intended, primarily, as a means to check whether students have read the selection, assuming it was assigned for homework. That is not to say, however, that students should not be allowed to refer back to the text in order to answer questions. If a student has read the selection then they should be able to complete the questions on the Reading Check in less than ten minutes, whether they refer back to the text or not. Students should be allowed 10–15 minutes to complete the assessment essays, although some may be suitable as longer take-home assignments, and a few require only a paragraph or so in order to formulate a thoughtful response.

Vocabulary Tests

Many selections in *Grace Abounding* contain Vocabulary in Place boxes, the majority of which contain words that every student should learn. The selections are useful for exposing the students to essential vocabulary, and the tests can be used to help solidify it as practical knowledge.

There are vocabulary tests for every selection in *Grace Abounding* that contains vocabulary glosses. A few selections, particularly in Unit 1, contain no vocabulary glosses and therefore no corresponding vocabulary activity. These are indicated in the Table of Contents for the Vocabulary Tests in each unit. There are several basic types of vocabulary activity, and some selections—particularly the more advanced and lengthier essays—have been divided into multiple tests. Selections intended for younger grades include simple vocabulary activities, such as word finds or crossword puzzles. Other vocabulary tests are multiple choice or fill in the blank, with several variations on each basic model.