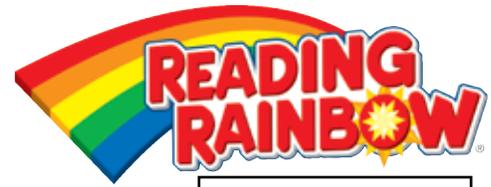


Uncle Jed's Barbershop

(GPN #117/PBS #1112)

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Illustrator: James Ransome



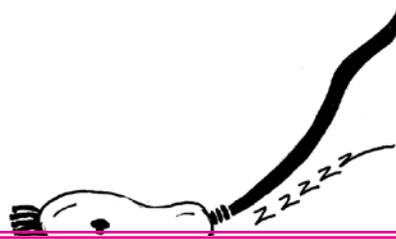
Program Description:

Sara Jean's Uncle Jed, the only black barber in the county, overcomes many setbacks, including the Great Depression of the 1930s, as he works to save enough money to open his own barbershop. LeVar finds out about making dreams come true with determination and faith, as he talks with The Persuasions, an a cappella quartet. These friends pursued their dream in spite of being told that a singing group without musical instruments didn't have a chance for success.



Social Studies Concepts:

- economics
- families
- heroes
- careers



Classroom Activities:

Economics

Talk with students about the difference between wants and needs. Use books, photographs, or a classroom visitor to discuss the Great Depression. Because there were few jobs (and the economy was depressed) most people weren't able to buy items to make their lives easier, and many others weren't able to afford the basics – like food and warm clothing. Have students brainstorm and classify items they use in their daily lives. As students dictate these, write them on a chart under either Things We Want or Things We Need. Discuss the items in the Things We Want category. How do students typically acquire these items – as gifts, by saving, by working? How do they typically get the items in the Things We Need category?

Families

Discuss how each family is unique because of its members. Some families are large and some are small. Some include grandparents who live with them, siblings, stepparents, step and/or foster siblings, and others. Have each student create a family portrait. Then have them form small groups so students can proudly introduce their families to one another.



Heroes

Discuss what a hero is, what qualities a hero has, and whether a hero needs to be famous. Brainstorm a list of qualities that fit the description of a hero. Have each student, using the list as a guide, name one person who they think is a hero. Urge them to choose someone who isn't famous, but someone they know who does unselfish things for others – someone in their family, neighborhood, or community or someone they know about but haven't met. Have them draw a picture of this hero and write a paragraph describing this person's qualities.



Careers

Discuss what students want to be when they are adults. Then ask them to draw a picture of themselves in this job and write a brief description about what they will be doing.



Careers

Invite parents or others in to explain their careers. In advance of the visits have students brainstorm a list of job-related questions for the visitors, such as:

- What do you like about your job?
- What tools do you need to do your work?
- What training or education did you need?
- How did you get the job you have?
- What advice would you give us about choosing a career?

Do-At-Home Activity:

Accomplishing Goals

Send home the "Accomplishing Goals" activity and encourage families to discuss sacrificing something in order to accomplish a goal.

Suggested Reading:

Review Books:

- A Peddler's Dream by Janice Shefelman
- Alvin Ailey by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- Zora Hurston And The Chinaberry Tree by William Miller

Other Suggestions:

- Frederick Douglass, The Last Day Of Slavery by William Miller
- The Story Of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
- Hats Off To Hair by Virginia Kroll

Accomplishing Goals

Dear Family,

We have been discussing goal and accomplishments in class. Please take some time and discuss these questions with your child.

1. When have you sacrificed something in order to accomplish a goal?
2. What was the goal you accomplished?
3. How did it feel to reach that goal?
4. Would you do it again? Why or why not?

