

Pink and Say

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Teaching Traditional American History Program

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<http://www.chillhistoryproject.com/>

Lesson Overview: The lesson is a component of a unit literature study of *Pink and Say* by *Patricia Polacco*. It provides students with an opportunity to concentrate on social, historical, and political aspects of the Civil War. This lesson covers an assortment of historical and political information using an elementary literature book.

Essential Question: What issues divided our nation during the civil war?

Objectives:

Students will

- Develop new strategies to enhance reading comprehension
- Locate unfamiliar words in a story and determine their meaning using a variety of strategies (e.g., prior knowledge, context clues, group discussion, media sources)
- Acquire new vocabulary identified from the assigned text
- Enhance understanding of new vocabulary by making connections to related ideas and other words
- Aim to use new vocabulary in speaking and writing

- Aim to continually use the practiced strategies to enhance reading comprehension and acquire new vocabulary

Assessment:

- Teacher observation
- Student constructed vocabulary cards
- Teacher constructed vocabulary quiz
- Comprehension quiz on *Pink and Say*

Materials:

- Copy of text *Pink and Say* by Patricia Polacco
- Pencil and white index cards
- Comprehension quiz on *Pink and Say*

Class Time: 2 periods approximately 50 minutes in length.

Teacher Input: Read the text selection *Pink and Say* aloud to the whole class, avoiding any interruptions from students who have questions. (Group discussion and understanding of the text will occur later in the lesson.) Ask students to take notes on paper of any unfamiliar vocabulary terms. After the selection is read conduct open group discussion of the different terms that students took note of. Students will copy the term and definition from the dictionary to white note cards for review. After terms are on note cards students will share their information with the group. Students may add information to another student's anecdotes about a certain term if correct. Teacher then asks if there are any unfamiliar terms that have been offered. Teacher generates a multiple choice vocabulary quiz from student terms.

Phase 2: Open discussion of the text(story) is conducted with student's sharing their thoughts, generalizations, opinions, etc.

Activities: Student's will develop reading comprehension skills by listening to oral reading of Pink and Say. Student's will develop vocabulary skills by selection of unfamiliar terms presented in text. Student's will participate in open discussion forum.

Questions for review: *Pink and Say is about two boys who are involved in the civil war. The civil war is very important to the history of our country. How does this story relate to the real civil war that happened in our country?*

Extension: None

References: Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

1. Why was Say laying in a field in Georgia? (1 point)
 - He was trying to take a nap.
 - He had been shot in the leg.
 - He was trying to remember what his home was like.
 - He was hiding from Confederate soldiers.
2. How did Say describe Pink? (1 point)
 - The color of polished mahogany.
 - As dark as night.
 - Skinny and many years older.
 - Dressed in Confederate colors.
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3. Pink helps Say up and takes him somewhere. Where do they end

up? (1 point)

- In a big battlefield.
- At Say's old farmhouse.
- At Pink's company's campground.
- At Moe Moe Bay's house

4. Why does Pink think they are putting Moe Moe Bay in danger by staying at her house? (1 point)

- Marauders could show up at any time.
- He is afraid his old master will come back.
- He knows Confederate solidiers are living near by.
- He is carrying a contagious disease.

5. What important skill did Pink learn from his master? (1 point)

- How to build a house.
- How to shoot a gun.
- How to read.
- How to raise chickens.

6. What is so great about Say's hand? (1 point)

- It has touched the shirt of General Grant.
- He shook hands with Abraham Lincoln.
- It sometimes moves on its own.
- It can shoot a gun perfectly.

7. What did Say confess to Moe Moe Bay the night before he left?
(1 point)

- He was scared of Pink.
- He was homesick and missed his mother.
- He didn't know how to shoot a gun.
- He was a coward and deserter of his troop.

8. What happened to Moe Moe Bay before Pink and Say left for the

war? (1 point)

- She left early and missed their leave.
- She was killed by marauders.
- She fell down and broke her leg.
- She became sick with a fever.

9. Where were Pink and Say taken when they were captured by Confederate solidiers? (1 point)

- Andersonville Prison Camp
- Gettysburg
- Confederate Solidier Camp
- To the river.

10. What happened to the two boys at the end of the story?

(1 point)

- Pink and Say both escaped.
- Pink lived, but Say died in the camp.
- Pink and Say both died in the camp.
- Say lived, but Pink died in the camp.

Submit answers
