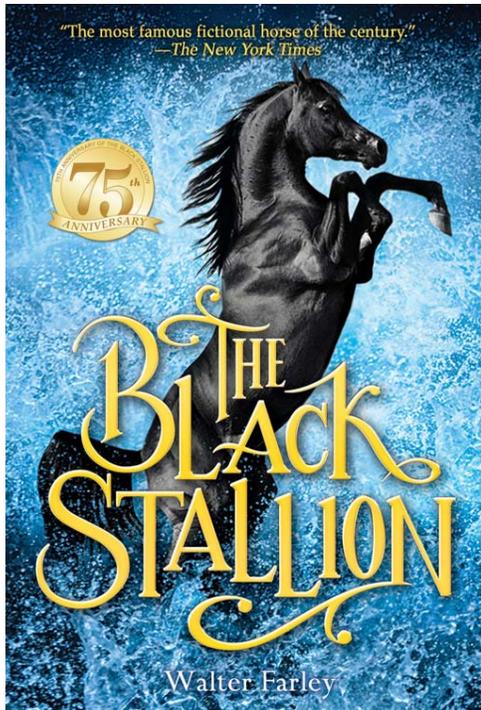


Grades 4-5 Text Exemplars

Discussion Questions

The Black Stallion by Walter Farley

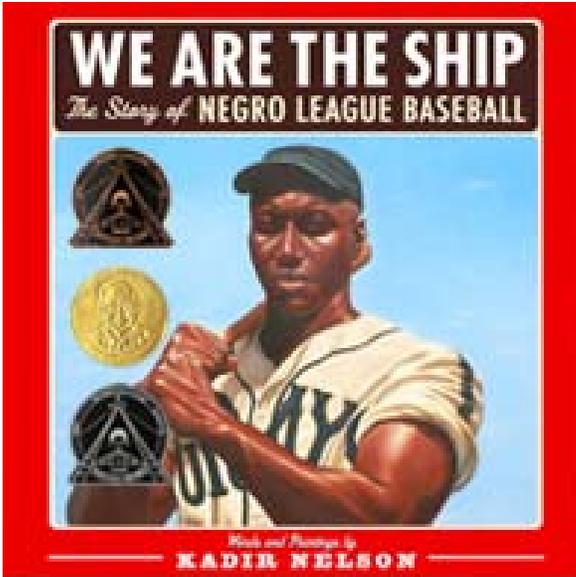


- What was the source of the conflict between Alec and the “dark-skinned man” as they were waiting for a life boat? What method did the captain use to resolve the conflict? Was this the right way to end the conflict or was there a better way? Why or why not?
(Sample Answer: The source of conflict was resources because the “dark-skinned man” wanted Alec’s life jacket. The captain approached the conflict through competition. Yes, I think this was the right way to end the conflict because the “dark-skinned man” was harming Alec and Alec could not protect himself. The captain saved Alec’s life.)
- What were the unmet needs of the Black that Alec was able to meet?
(Sample Answer: The unmet needs of the Black were emotional safety, love, understanding, community, and rest/recreation/play.)
- Describe the power imbalance between Alec and the Black both on the island and in New York.
(Sample Answer: Both Alec and the Black need one another. The Black will always be stronger than Alec. The Black can choose to do whatever he likes at just about any time, but it is his love of Alec that keeps him in line.)
- What was the source of conflict between Alec and his parents about keeping the Black?
(Sample Answer: The source of conflict is about resources because it takes a lot of money to care for a horse, and about values because Alec’s parents are concerned that he will neglect his schooling.)
- Why was Henry’s statement to reporters in Chicago effective? Did he choose the right approach? Why or why not?
(Sample Answer: Henry’s statement was very effective and the reporters stopped cracking jokes about the Black. His approach was the right approach since it was effective. However, he could have asked them to leave nicely instead of threatening them.)

Grades 4-5 Text Exemplars

Discussion Questions

We Are the Ship by Kadir Nelson



- In certain cities the ball players were unable to get a glass of free water even if they paid for it. What was the source of the conflict?

(Sample Answer: The sources of conflict are values because the ball players were not treated equally, and relationship and roles because some white people felt that black people were not fulfilling their role in society.)

- In the chapter “2nd Inning” the author describes that the Negro ball players had to place money in an ashtray because the clerk did not want to touch them. How do you think this made them feel? What do you think the store clerk was feeling? What do you think would have happened if the ball players insisted on placing their money in the clerk’s hand?

(Sample Answer: I think this made the ball players feel frustrated but it was also something they were used to. I think the store clerk felt disgust and that is why he didn’t want to touch their hands. If the ball players would have insisted on placing the money in the clerk’s hand I think they would have been denied service and thrown out of the store, it might have even caused them to have a physical fight.)

- While in the South the Negro ball players faced racism. What approach to conflict did they use? What would have been the result if they had chosen to approach conflict by insisting on getting things their way?

(Sample Answer: The Negro ball players’ approach to conflict was to avoid. If they had insisted on getting things their way they would have been in a lot of physical danger, possibly even killed.)

- Jackie Robinson chose to approach conflict with the military bus driver through competing. What was the result of this approach? Did the conflict get resolved? Could Robinson have chosen a more effective approach? Why or why not?

(Sample Answer: The result of competing was that Robinson was court-martialed. The conflict was never actually resolved but Robinson was acquitted. I don’t think he could have chosen a different approach because any other approach would not have been effective. Robinson was standing up for what was right.)

- Once Robinson made it to the major leagues what was his approach to conflict there? Why?

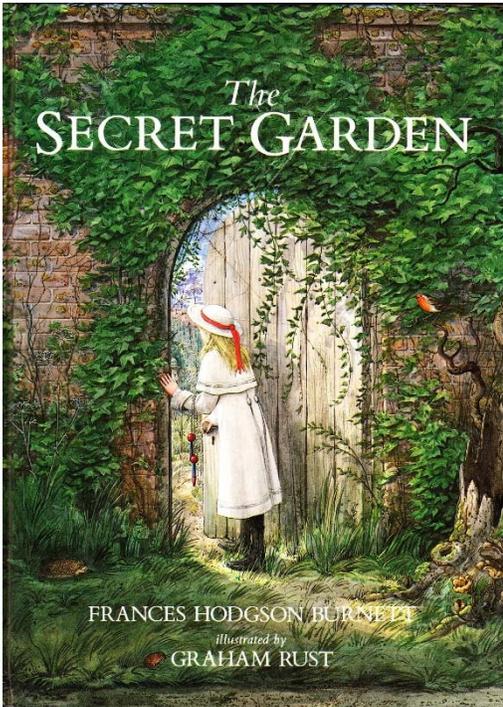
(Sample Answer: Robinson’s approach to conflict was to avoid responding to his negative treatment for a period of three years so that he could stay in the major leagues and so that other Negro ball players would have a chance to play there too.)

- How did you feel while reading the story? Did those feelings make you want to jump into the story at any point to participate or help to resolve the conflict? Which parts and what would you have done?

Grades 4-5 Text Exemplars

Discussion Questions

The Secret Garden by Francis Hodgson Burnett



- What approach to conflict did the Ayah use with Mary? What was the result? What approach to conflict with Mary should the Ayah have used? Would she have been allowed to use it? Would it have made a difference?
(Sample Answer: The Ayah chose to avoid conflict with Mary and that made Mary a brat. The Ayah should have approached conflict with Mary with control/compete/persist at first and then tried other approaches as Mary got older. The Ayah would not have been allowed to use these approaches since she was a servant but if she could have then Mary would not have been so contrary.)

- How did Martha respond to Mary's outrage at being thought to be a "native"? What effect did Martha's response have on Mary?
(Sample Answer: Martha was surprised by the Mary's rage and a little frightened, but she also felt sorry for her and went to comfort her. Martha's kind treatment calmed Mary down and it was the beginning of their friendship.)

- Describe the power imbalance between Colin and the servants of Misselthwaite Manor.
(Sample Answer: The servants lived in fear of Colin and had to do whatever he wanted even if it was not good for him.)
- Explain how the lack of power imbalance between Colin and Mary helps both of them to become better people.
(Sample Answer: Because there was no power imbalance both Colin and Mary could tell one another exactly what they thought about the other person and they did not care if the other person liked it or not. It helped them both to see themselves through another person's eyes. Seeing the truth about themselves made them both better people.)
- What did Colin and Mary learn?
(Sample Answer: Colin and Mary learned how to treat other people equally and with respect. They learned that they could learn from others. They learned how to be kind and how to care for living things.)
- If you could jump in at any point in this book to resolve the conflict where would it be?