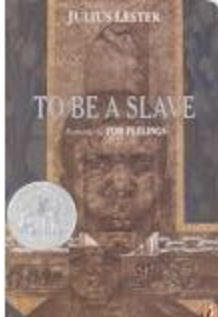


Summer Reading Assignment 7th Grade History with Mr. Gardner

Required Reading:

To Be A Slave by Julius Lester



After reading the book, respond to the following topics and questions, typing out your responses on a document that will be turned in during the first week of school. Respond to each question in the form of at least one full, thoughtful paragraph. Please remember to put a full slug in the top right of your assignment.

Topic A: The Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, which established the United States of America as an independent nation, states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Questions to answer on a typed document for Topic A:

1. Considering the ideals upon which America was founded as stated in the Declaration of Independence above, and understanding that slavery has been a part of humanity for millennia, how could America's founding fathers, many of whom owned slaves (one study identifying as many as 41 of the 56 signers either currently owned or had owned slaves), develop and stand behind the ideals of our nation "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed (given) by their Creator (God) with certain unalienable (unable to be taken away) Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty (freedom) and the pursuit of Happiness," especially defending these ideals to the world at the time?
2. Have these ideals been realized or not in today's America? Provide examples to support your thinking.
3. What is your obligation to uphold these ideals? Provide examples to support

Topic B: Southern slave owners attempted to increase their wealth through the exploitation of Africans and African Americans and many Northern businesses including banks, insurance companies, and textile factories (clothing manufacturers) also attempted to increase their wealth by loaning money to slave owners, insuring Southern crops and using cotton produced on Southern slave owning plantations to make cloth.

Question to answer for Topic B:

4. If financial success and prosperity for some is achieved through the exploitation of others (whether they are enslaved Africans/African Americans, Native Americans, indentured servants, children, the poor, women, paid labor, etc.), is that success justified? Explain thoroughly using complete sentences.

The last part of this assignment is a creative piece of work from *To Be A Slave*. Choose **one** of the following:

- Write a song or poem about a theme, idea, situation, or person from the book
- Find and print out the lyrics to a song that expresses or explores one of the themes or ideas of the book. Write one sentence on the lyrics page about how the song connects for you to the book's themes
- Create a drawing or comic or meme that comments on or relates to one of the moments, quotes, themes or main ideas of the book. Write a sentence or two on the page about how your work connects to the book's moments or themes. You don't have to be a confident artist to create a good drawing, comic, or meme; you just need a good idea about the book.