



People Matter/People Lead

Read Aloud and Lesson based on the book

Midnight Teacher by Janet Halfmann

*Teachers play a critical role in today's difficult times. Both in-person and virtually, teachers have the challenge of continuing to educate their students for many hours five days a week. Today's teachers, like Lilly Ann Granderson in the book **Midnight Teacher**, believe in the power of education. Contemplate why you think education is so important as you read/listen to **Midnight Teacher** by Janet Halfmann.*

After you have read or listened to the book, think about and discuss the following questions:

1. Almost two-hundred years ago, Lilly Ann Granderson believed that the path to freedom was through education. Do you think this is also true today? Be prepared to support your answer.
2. In the first half of the 19th century, it was illegal in Mississippi for enslaved people to learn to read. Why do you think this was against the law?
3. Lilly Ann Granderson was a **risk-taker**. She knew the consequences of her actions, yet she was determined to teach her students how to read. Teaching and learning how to read is no longer a risk. However, we are all often faced with taking risks in our classrooms, whether in-person or virtually. A teacher might ask a question or ask for a volunteer to read something to the rest of the class. Even if you are not sure of the answer, or of all the words in the passage, do you think a risk-taker would try anyway? Do you think it is a positive characteristic for a student to be a risk-taker in class? Why or why not?
4. Why do you think the authorities made the decision to allow Lilly Ann to continue teaching her students?
5. In the book, we learn that Army Chaplain Joseph Warren visited Lilly Ann Granderson's school. He praised her as a "remarkable woman". Would you describe Lilly Ann as a leader, a hero, both, or neither and why?
6. Racial injustice is one of the most important issues facing us in these challenging times. Do you think getting a good education will help you be part of the solution? Why or why not?

7. What do you think would be a good way to thank your teacher for helping you with your education?