



Heroes of Black History

Read Aloud Lesson based on the book

Black Heroes: 51 Inspiring People from Ancient Africa to Modern-Day U.S.A

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Black Heroes: 51 Inspiring People from Ancient Africa to Modern-Day U.S.A is an illustrated book that tells the stories of 51 heroes from the ancient past to the present. From ancient queens to musicians, political leaders, scientists, athletes, and writers, each hero made an impact in a different way.

Black Heroes is a long book that can be read or listened to (check YouTube for a read aloud) either all at once or can be broken up in parts. As you read think about what makes these people heroes and after, reflect on the questions below.

1. Think about some of the heroes you just learned about. Come up with three qualities they have in common. Do you possess these same qualities? How can you go about your everyday life embracing these qualities and being a hero yourself?
2. Each hero accomplished incredible things, but they all faced obstacles along the way. Have you ever faced an obstacle or hardship? How did it make you feel? What helped you overcome that obstacle and keep going?
3. Many times, our accomplishments build upon the accomplishments of those before us. The heroes in the book are from all different times in history. Do you think some of the successes of the earlier heroes helped the more modern heroes accomplish their goals and dreams? How may these heroes have impacted your life?

4. These heroes are from all different places, times, and professions. Think of a hero in your community. Who are they? What do they do? What difference have they made for you and those around you?

5. Read again Jesse Owens's quote printed on page 147:

“We all have dreams. But in order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, self-discipline, and effort.”

What is a dream you have? What is one step you can do to get you closer to achieving that dream? Who can support you as you try to reach your goal?