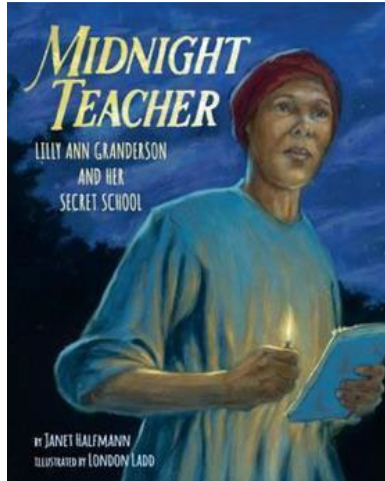


Midnight Teacher



By: Janet Halfmann

Illustrated By: London Ladd

Topics: Rights and responsibilities, Student voice, Rules, Legislation, Community building

Genres: Picture books-historical nonfiction, Slavery, Constitutional freedoms, Nonfiction

Teachers play a critical role in society. They have the challenge of continuing to educate their students for many hours, five days a week. Teachers like Lilly Ann Granderson in the book *Midnight Teacher*, believe in the power of education.

Before the Read Aloud:

Why do you think education is so important? If everyone stopped going to school, what do you think would happen in a week? How about in a year, or ten years?

Midnight Teacher

During the Read Aloud:

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. 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? Why?
6. Racial injustice is one of the most important issues facing us today. Do you think getting a good education will help you be part of the solution? Why or why not?

Take Action Project:

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

