



Readers
Theater:

Learning
Together-

A Black History

Month

Adventure



Characters:

- Narrator
- Ms. Simmons (teacher, encouraging and energetic)
- Jack (curious student who loves asking questions)
- Ava (thoughtful student who loves history)
- Carlos (a funny and energetic student)
- Sophie (quiet but insightful student)

Optional Props:

- A chalkboard or whiteboard with "Black History Month" written on it
- A small table with pretend books labeled with figures like "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." or "Maya Angelou"
- classroom setting: desks, etc.
- tray of cookies: real or cut out of paper!

Narrator:

It's February, and the students in Ms. Simmons's class are buzzing with excitement. Today, they're learning about Black History Month, but the lesson promises a surprise twist!

Ms. Simmons:

(Clapping her hands) Alright, class! Today, we're going on a journey through history. Who can tell me what Black History Month is all about?

Jack:

(Shooting his hand up) It's about famous people and stuff, right? Like Dr. King and Rosa Parks?

Ms. Simmons:

(Smiling) That's a good start, Jack! Black History Month is a time to celebrate the contributions of Black people throughout history and recognize their impact on the world. But there's so much more to it than just names and dates.

Carlos:

(Grinning) Does it involve snacks? Because history is way better with snacks.

Ava:

(Rolling her eyes) Carlos, everything is better with snacks.

Ms. Simmons:

(Laughing) Snacks will come later, Carlos. First, let's dive into history. Imagine you're traveling back in time. Close your eyes, everyone.

Narrator:

The students close their eyes, giving a thumbs up. Ms. Simmons flicks the classroom lights off and on.

Ms. Simmons:

(Whispering dramatically) We're stepping into a time machine. Hold on tight! Whoosh!

Sophie:

(Open eyes, puzzled) Uh, Ms. Simmons? We're still in the classroom.

Ms. Simmons:

(Laughing) True, Sophie, but history comes alive when we imagine! Let's start with Rosa Parks. Who knows what she's famous for?

Ava:

(Shooting her hand up) She refused to give up her seat on a bus! She was so brave.

Carlos:

(Winking) I bet she told that bus driver, "Keep your hands off my snacks!"

Ms. Simmons:

(Playfully stern) Carlos, no snacks involved, but Rosa Parks stood up—or should I say sat down—for what was right. Her courage helped start the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a key moment in the Civil Rights Movement.

Jack:

(Squinting) Wait, so she didn't sit up because she was tired?

Ms. Simmons:

(Patiently) She was tired of unfair laws, Jack. Being told you couldn't sit wherever you wanted just because of the color of your skin. How would you feel

Jack:

owning that's not fair at all.

Narrator:

The students nod in agreement, imagining how Rosa Parks must have felt.

Ms. Simmons:

Now, let's talk about someone who had a way with words. (Pulls out a pretend book) Maya Angelou. She once said, "I know why the caged bird sings." What do you think that means?

Sophie:

(Quietly) Maybe... it's about finding hope even when life is hard?

Ms. Simmons:

(Encouraging) Exactly, Sophie! Mrs. Angelou wrote about her life, her struggles, and her triumphs. She inspired millions with her words.

Carlos:

(Snapping fingers) I could write a poem too! Peas are red, violets are blue, history is cool, and snacks are too!

Ava:

(Giggling) Carlos, you're hopeless.

Ms. Simmons:

(Laughing) Keep practicing, Carlos. You might just be the next poet we study! Now, let's talk about someone else—someone who made a big impact in science and agriculture. Who's known for George Washington Carver?

Jack:

(Shrugging) Wasn't he the peanut butter guy?

Ms. Simmons:

(Laughing) Sort of! George Washington Carver didn't invent peanut butter, but he found over 300 uses for peanuts. He also created products from sweet potatoes, pecans, and soybeans. And he didn't stop there—he taught farmers better ways to grow crops so they could take care of their soil.

Ava:

(Wide-eyed) Whoa, so he was like a scientist and a teacher?

Ms. Simmons:

Exactly, Ava. He believed in helping others, especially poor farmers, to make their lives better. He used his knowledge to make a difference.

Carlos:

(Musing) Hmm... so if I figure out 300 ways to use chocolate, can I be famous too?

Ms. Simmons:

(Playfully) Maybe Carlos. But remember, it's not just about what you discover—it's about how you use it to help others.

Jack:

(Thoughtfully) George Washington Carver sounds like a really kind guy. Did he ever get rich?

Ms. Simmons:

(Smiling) No, Jack. He cared more about helping people than making money. He once said, "It is not the style of clothes one wears... but it is simply service that measures success."

Sophie:

(Quietly) I like that. Helping others is more important than being rich.

Narrator:

The students smile, thinking about how they can help others too.

Ms. Simmons:

And now... (dramatic pause) snack time!

Narrator:

The students cheer as Ms. Simmons pulls out a tray of cookies, ending the lesson with laughter and full bellies.

Name: _____

Date: _____

What did Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou, and George Washington Carver teach us about courage, hope, and service?

Why is it important to celebrate Black History Month?

How can we practice inclusion and fairness in our everyday lives?

Ms. Simmons



Jack



Ava



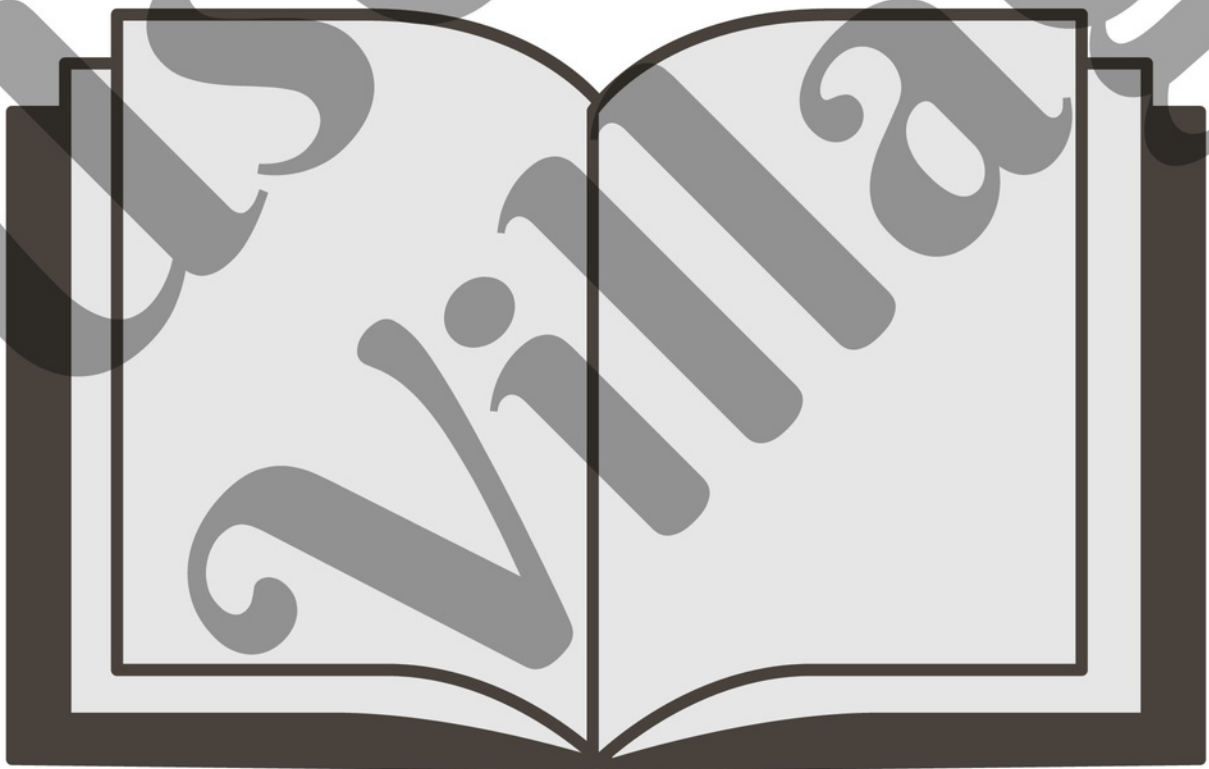
Carlos



Sophie



Narrator



Teacher Suggestions:

Assigning Roles: Consider your students' reading levels and confidence when assigning roles. Encourage students to practice their parts at home or during independent reading time.

Practicing Fluency: Have students practice their parts multiple times to build fluency and expression.

Props & Costumes: Use the optional props list to create simple, engaging props.

Character Labels: Students can also use the provided character names to either cut out to hang around their neck to help identify characters to the audience or alternatively draw and illustrate what they imagine their character to look like.

Performance: Arrange a space in the classroom where students can perform. Invite other students to watch the final performance to boost students' confidence and make it more special.

Reader Response Questions: Use the provided questions to facilitate a post-performance discussion. This will help assess comprehension and encourage students to think critically about the play.

Extension Activities:

- **Creative Writing:** Write a poem inspired by Maya Angelou.
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- **Science Fun:** Research some of George Washington Carver's peanut or sweet potato inventions. Create your own "invention" using an everyday item.
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- **Role-Play:** Act out a scene where you stand up for something you believe in, like Rosa Parks.