



"Do not seem to regret your actions. You
are only seeking your rights."
Viola Desmond



"I am not the governor of the black people of Ontario, I am the governor of the people of Ontario."
Lincoln Alexander



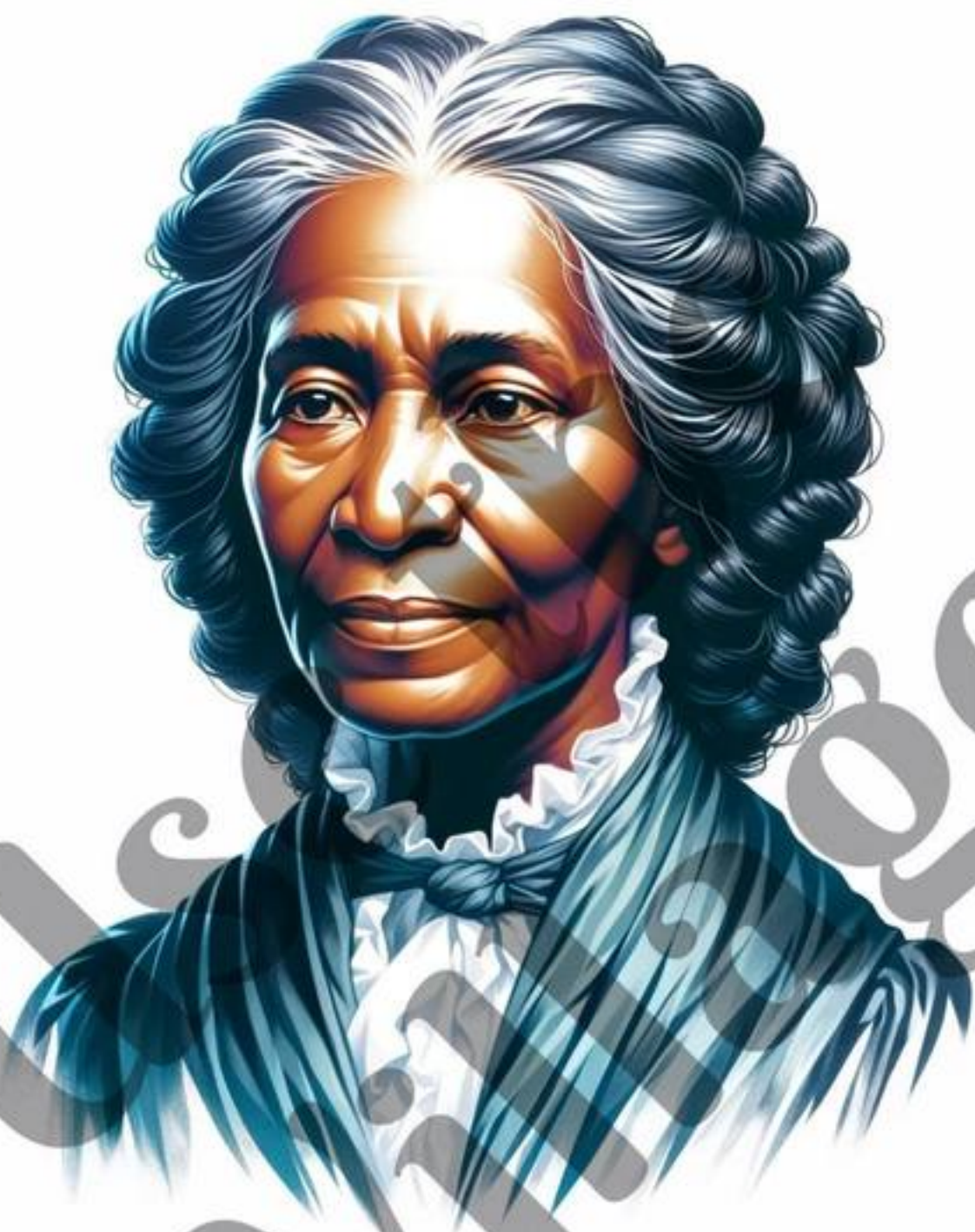
"We have to lift as we rise."

Jean Augustine



"First you dream, then you lace up your boots."

Portia White

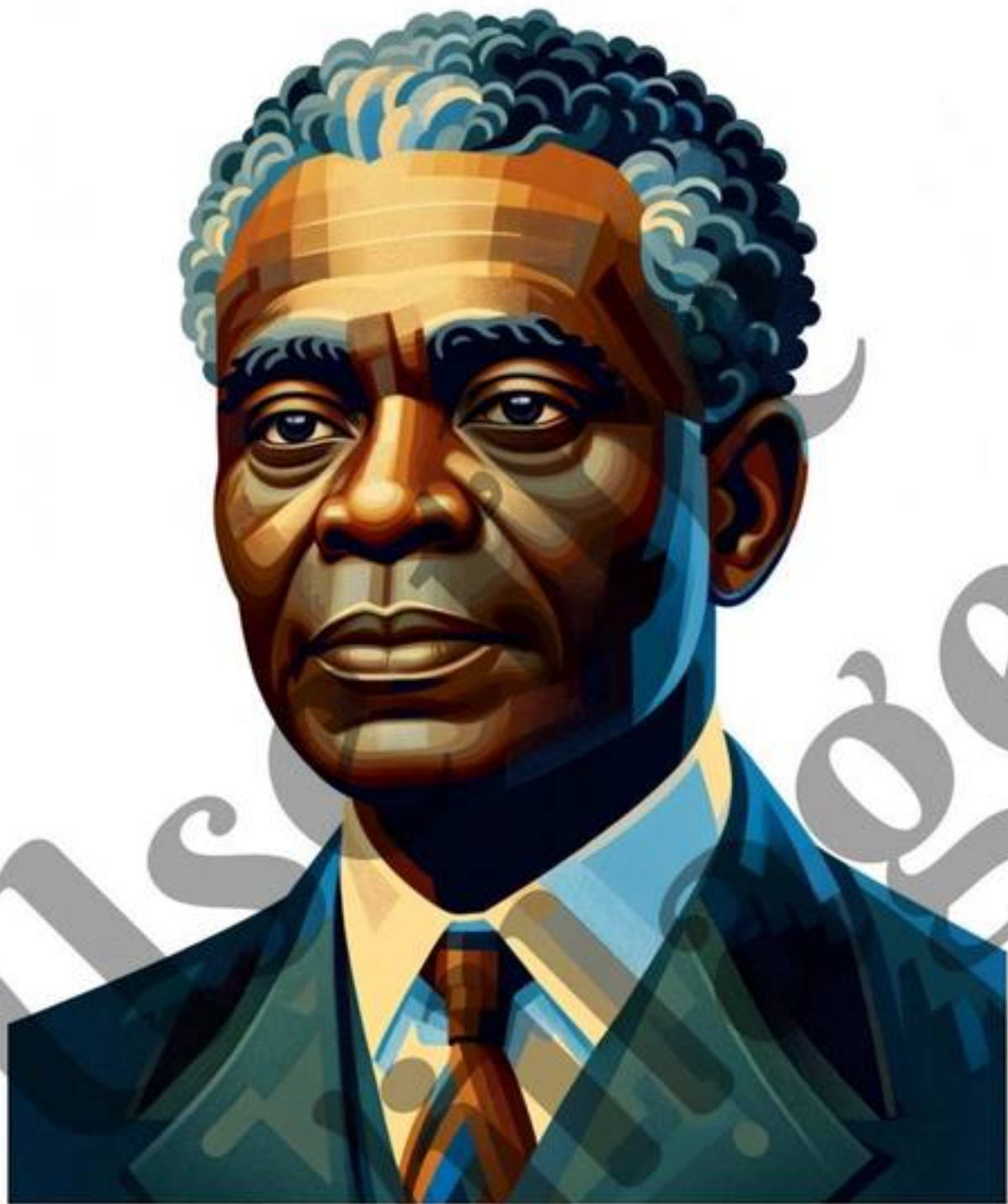


"Self-reliance is the fine road to
independence."

Mary Ann Shadd Cary



"It is by our work that we shape
ourselves and are recognized by others."
Michaëlle Jean



"The fight for justice is never easy. But it is a battle that must be waged and can be won."

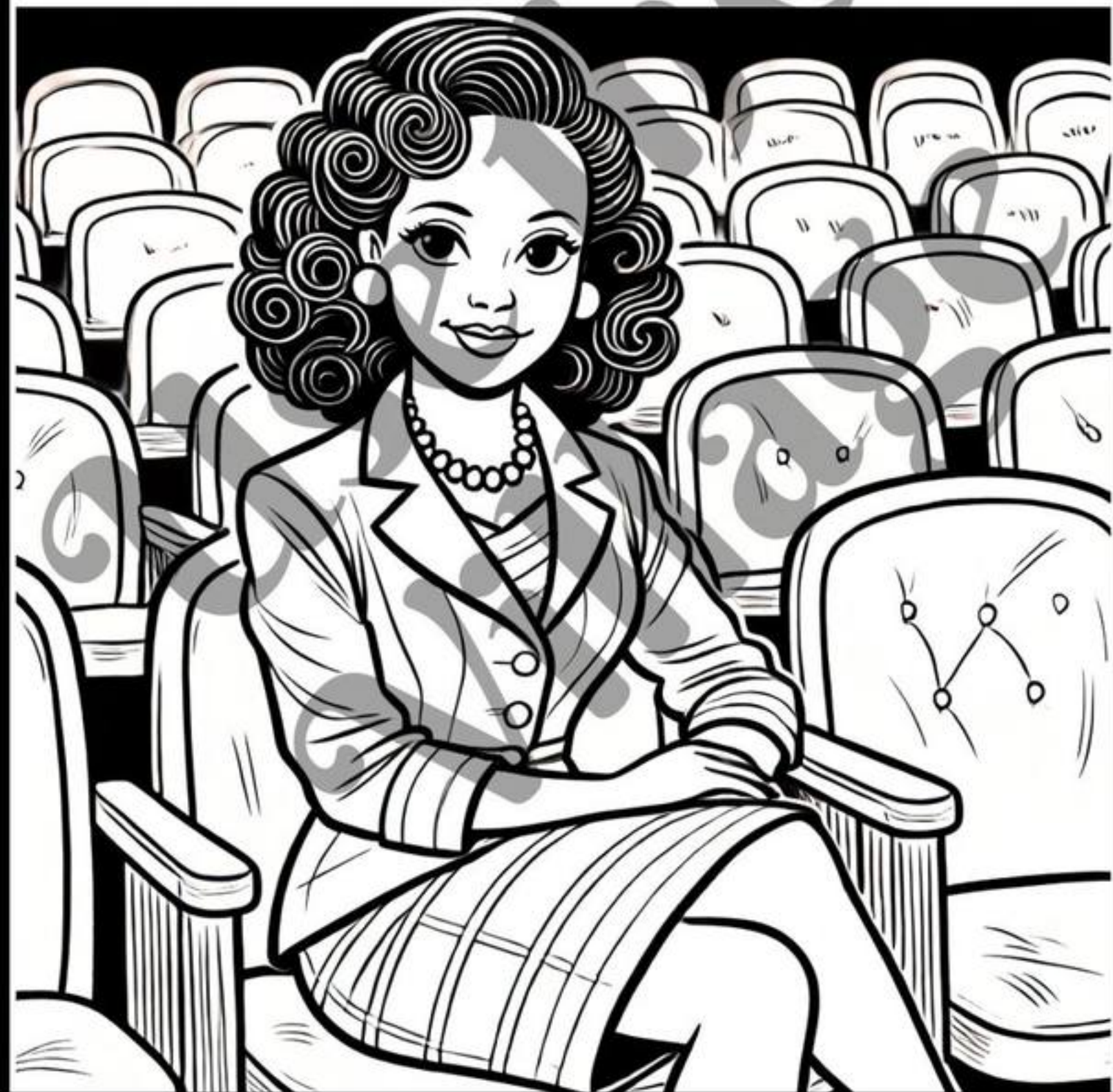
Stanley Grizzle



"The real McCoy does not imitate others or follow; he innovates, leads, and stays true to his craft."

Elijah McCoy

VIOLA DESMOND



LINCOLN ALEXANDER



JEAN AUGUSTINE



PORTIA WHITE



MARY ANN SHADD CARY



MICHAËLLE JEAN



STANLEY GRIZZLE



ELIJAH MCCOY



Name: _____

Date: _____

ELIJAH MCCOY

Read the biographical passage about Elijah McCoy and answer the questions.



Elijah McCoy was a very clever inventor who changed the way machines work. He was born on May 2, 1844, in Ontario, Canada. As a young boy, he loved to learn about how things worked. When he grew up, he went to Scotland to study engineering because he wanted to become an expert at building and fixing machines.

When Elijah came back to Canada, he found it hard to get a good job in engineering because of unfair rules about race. So, he started working with trains. While working there, Elijah invented something amazing. He made a special cup that could keep train engines oiled all the time. This invention was so good that people started saying "the real McCoy" to mean something was the best of its kind.

Elijah McCoy invented more than 50 things in his life, including a new kind of ironing board and a lawn sprinkler. But his oiling cup was the most famous. Even though it was hard for him because of the color of his skin, Elijah never stopped inventing. He showed everyone that you can do great things no matter what.

Elijah McCoy died on October 10, 1929, but people still remember him for his smart inventions that helped make machines better and work smoother.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 Why was it hard for Elijah to find a good engineering job?

2 What does the phrase "the real McCoy" mean?

3 Why do people remember Elijah McCoy?

Name: _____

Date: _____

JEAN AUGUSTINE

Read the biographical passage
about Jean Augustine and answer
the questions.



Jean Augustine is an important figure in Canadian history. She was born on September 9, 1937, in Grenada, a small island in the Caribbean. When she was a young woman, she moved to Canada to work and study. Jean worked really hard and became a teacher, and then a school principal, helping lots of children learn and grow.

Jean wanted to help even more people, so she became involved in politics. In 1993, she made history by becoming the first black woman elected to the Canadian Parliament. This was a big deal because she was the first person like her to do this job, showing everyone that anyone can be a leader, no matter where they come from or what they look like.

As a politician, Jean Augustine worked on many important projects. One of her biggest achievements was making February Black History Month in Canada. This helped people learn about the history and achievements of black Canadians.

Jean has won many awards for her work and is known for being kind, brave, and always trying to make things better for everyone. She retired from politics but still works hard to help people, especially in education and fairness.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 What jobs did Jean do before she became a politician?

2 Why was Jean Augustine's election to the Canadian Parliament special?

3 What important event did Jean help start in Canada?

Name: _____

Date: _____

VIOLA DESMOND

Read the biographical passage
about Viola Desmond and answer
the questions.



Viola Desmond was a brave and inspiring woman who stood up for what was right. She was born on July 6, 1914, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Viola was part of a big, loving family and grew up to be a successful businesswoman. She had her own beauty salon!

One day in 1946, something very important happened. Viola went to a movie theater in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Back then, people were separated based on their skin color. Viola, who was black, refused to sit in the section of the theater where black people were expected to sit. She chose a seat on the main floor, which was unfairly reserved for white people only. When she was told to move, she refused. Because of this, Viola was taken out of the theater and arrested.

What happened to Viola was wrong, and she knew it. She decided to fight against the unfair rules. Her bravery helped start a movement for equal rights in Canada. Even though it was a tough fight, Viola never gave up. She wanted a world where everyone was treated fairly, no matter the color of their skin.

Viola Desmond is remembered as a hero. She showed us that one person can make a big difference. In honor of her bravery, Viola's picture was put on the Canadian ten-dollar bill. This made her the first Canadian woman to be featured on a regularly circulating banknote.

Viola Desmond passed away on February 7, 1965. However, her story continues to inspire people all over the world to stand up for what is right and fair.

Name: _____

Date: _____

1 What was Viola Desmond's profession?

2 How did Viola Desmond contribute to the fight for equal rights?

3 What special honor was given to Viola Desmond to remember her bravery?

Name: _____

Date: _____

MARY ANN SHADD CARY

Read the biographical passage
about Mary Ann Shadd Cary and
answer the questions.



Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823 - 1893) was an incredible trailblazer who made a big difference in American history. She was born in Wilmington, Delaware, to parents who were free African Americans. Growing up, Mary Ann's family strongly believed in ending slavery and making sure everyone was treated fairly.

Mary Ann did something amazing - she became the first African American woman to write and edit a newspaper in North America! Her newspaper, called the "Provincial Freeman," talked about stopping slavery and encouraged African Americans to move to Canada for a better life.

But Mary Ann didn't stop there. She loved teaching and started a school for African American children in Canada to help them learn and grow. She also fought for women's rights, making sure that women could vote and have a say in important decisions.

Later in her life, Mary Ann Shadd Cary became a lawyer, which was a big deal because she was one of the first African American women to do so. She worked hard to make sure everyone had equal rights and opportunities.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary is a hero who paved the way for fairness and equality. Her bravery and determination inspire us all to stand up for what's right.

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 Where was Mary Ann Shadd Cary born, and what did her family believe in?

- 2 What made Mary Ann Shadd Cary special in the world of newspapers, and what was the name of her newspaper?

- 3 What was the significant milestone Mary Ann Shadd Cary achieved later in her life?

Name: _____

Date: _____

LINCOLN ALEXANDER

Read the biography of Lincoln Alexander and answer the comprehension questions using the passage for reference.



Lincoln Alexander was a trailblazer and leader who worked hard to make Canada a better and fairer place. He was born on January 21, 1922, in Toronto, Ontario, and grew up during a time when Black Canadians faced many challenges because of racism. But Lincoln never gave up and became a role model for many people, showing that anything is possible with hard work and determination.

During World War II, Lincoln served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, where he worked as a wireless operator to help protect Canada. After the war, he went to school, earning a law degree, and became a lawyer because he wanted to solve problems and fight for fairness. In 1968, Lincoln made history by becoming the first Black Member of Parliament in Canada, representing the Hamilton West riding. In this role, he worked to create laws and policies that helped people. Later, in 1985, he made history again by becoming the first Black Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, where he represented the Queen and focused on education, youth programs, and equal opportunities for all.

Lincoln believed that education was the key to success, and he encouraged young people to work hard and follow their dreams. Over his lifetime, he received many awards and honors for breaking barriers and standing up for equality. He passed away on October 19, 2012, but his legacy continues to inspire people across Canada.

Fun fact: Lincoln Alexander's birthday, January 21, is celebrated in Ontario as Lincoln Alexander Day to honor his amazing achievements!

Name: _____

Date: _____

- 1 What challenges did Lincoln Alexander face as a Black Canadian during his time, and how did he overcome them?

- 2 Why was education important to Lincoln Alexander, and how did he encourage others to value it?

- 3 What is celebrated on January 21 in Ontario, and why is this day significant?

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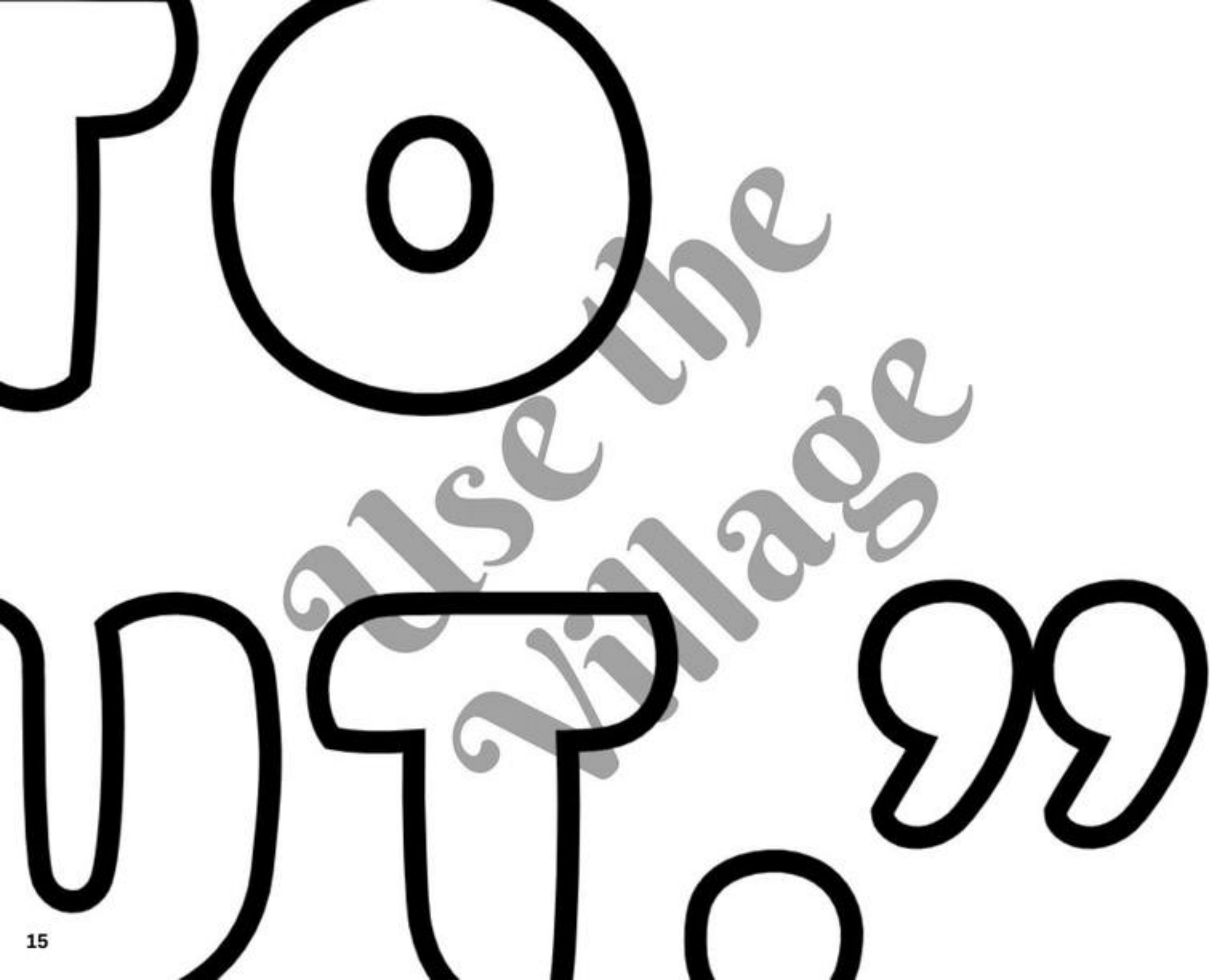
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