

The Civil War through a Child's Eye

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Standards

- IL.1 GOAL: Read with understanding and fluency.
- IL.1.B STANDARD: Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and fluency.
- IL.2.B.5b > Apply knowledge gained from literature as a means of understanding contemporary and historical economic, social and political issues and perspectives.
- IL.29.D.5 > Analyze different perspectives of historical events using a variety of media and technology tools.

Resources

[Selected Civil War Photos](#)

[Prints and Photographs Reading Room](#)

[Resource List](#)

Bull Run by Paul Fleischman

Lesson Plan

Overview and Rationale

The Civil War through a Child's Eye lesson focuses on the use of historical fiction and primary sources to expand students' perceptions of the Civil War

era. Literature and photographic images reflect, communicate, and influence human perspectives of historical events. Specifically, the unit helps students to view the Civil War era through a child's eye, rather than from an adult perspective.

Following an introduction to the Civil War using photographic, daguerreotype, and non-fiction sources, students read Paul Fleischman's *Bull Run* in Readers Theater format. Next, students examine and interpret primary source images of Civil War era children. Then, students reveal their understanding of a child's perspective in a literary portrait. In sum, this lesson integrates reading, writing, and US history standards.

Objectives

Students will:

- differentiate between primary and secondary source materials as they explore perspectives of the Civil War;
- understand multiple perspectives of the Civil War through the use of historical fiction;
- analyze and interpret images from the American Memory collections;
- make inferences about how children were affected by the Civil War; and
- create a literary portrait that conveys a child's perspective of the Civil War era.

Materials

Computers/internet access

Journals

Pen/pencil

Procedure

1. Students will use the Library of Congress website to look at selected sites that are given by the teacher.
2. Students will look at the "Selected Civil War Photographs" website.
3. Students will use the American Memory collections to look at pictures of children from the Civil War.
4. While students are viewing these pages they will journal on interesting facts that they learn from the websites.
5. Students will comment on how they think they would have felt, had they been a child during the Civil War.

6. Students will read Paul Fleischman's *Bull Run*.
7. While students are reading and working, they may work in groups.
8. The teacher will be doing observational guided reading to make sure that all material is understood.

Assessment

Did student stay on task during the class period?

Did the student work well in his/her group?

Did the student show an accurate knowledge of the information read?

Did the student's journal reflect thought and insight?

Did the student complete the journal activity?

The student needs a "yes" answer for 4/5 to pass.