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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2007 Volume I: Adapting Literature

The Color Purple's Three-Fold Adaptation: Examining Protagonists and Media through a Self-Reflective, Critical Lens

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This curriculum unit serves a two-fold purpose. It will first examine the intertwining lives of season-three *American Idol* winner, Fantasia Barrino, and the female protagonist Celie in Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Color Purple*, including its film adaptation. The three categories for examination of these two characters will be Self-Esteem, Generational Curses, and Illumination of the Gift. The second section will involve a critical examination of the book and its adaptation into a film and musical, in tandem with the passion all three mediums have evoked. This passion has come in the form of controversy and love, which made these mediums the subject of much criticism. The predominantly African-American fifth grade demographic I impact will benefit from the first part of this study through creating real-world implications of these intertwining lives with their own. The second part of this unit will develop the skills of in-depth analysis that will equip them to begin examining various mediums of storytelling through a critical lens.

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