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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2009 Volume II: American Voices: Listening to Fiction, Poetry, and Prose

Competing Paths of Struggle: African American Resistance to White Oppression, 1863-1896

Guide for Curriculum Unit 09.02.01, published September 2009
by Kyle Beckham

This unit deals with African American history during Reconstruction. Using a model of oppression and resistance, it explores the wide array of obstacles African Americans faced, and the specific strategies of resistance that they used, to challenge those obstacles. Though it covers a very short time period, this unit should provide students with a firm understanding of historical agency, American legal structure and history as well as a new set of vocabulary and analytical frameworks that they can apply the examination of other groups. Ideally it will challenge them to look at the struggles of African Americans in a new light, one that will empower them to examine and change their own communities.

(Developed for U.S. Humanities, grades 10-12; recommended for U.S. History and American Government, grades 10-12)

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