



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

to strengthen teaching in public schools®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2011 Volume IV: The Big Easy: Literary New Orleans and Intangible Heritage

'Imaginal' Performances in Memory

Guide for Curriculum Unit 11.04.11, published September 2011
by Jeffrey K. Weathers

Through the simultaneous examination of the familiar, which is Westmoor High School and the community of Westlake in Daly City, and the exploration of the strange, New Orleans and its people, with the aid of the imagination, which is symbolized with the Tree of Life, I have the hope of creating awareness of our universal responsibilities as responsive stewards. This unit will use Documentary, Film and Literature as windows and snapshots of another 'world' to help us all perceive better the actual world, in hopes of becoming, as Mahatma Gandhi encouraged, "the change [we] wish to see." This unit, while containing particular texts and films to illuminate the two specific locales, above, is actually designed to teach the value of developing the Imagination in each of our students and to model the means to be responsive stewards and make meaningful and purposeful changes in our selves and in our communities. The texts and films within can be surrogated with others that are particular to any school's communities and any other large city in the world.

(Developed for Film as Literature, grades 11-12; recommended for English Literature and Film, Film as Literature, History, and Humanities, grades 11-12)

<https://teachers.yale.edu>

©2023 by the Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute, Yale University, All Rights Reserved. Yale National Initiative®, Yale-New Haven Teachers Institute®, On Common Ground®, and League of Teachers Institutes® are registered trademarks of Yale University.

For terms of use visit https://teachers.yale.edu/terms_of_use