



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative  
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## **Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and the Integration of Schools**

Guide for Curriculum Unit 15.01.07, published September 2015  
by Valerie Schwarz

*Jim Crow, Civil Rights, and the Struggle to Integrate Schools* is a literature based curriculum unit that combines history and language arts. The curriculum unit uses Jacqueline Woodson's free verse memoir, *Brown Girl Dreaming* as an anchor text, and provides a framework for making historical connections to the Jim Crow and Civil Rights Eras. The stories of the Little Rock Nine and Davis v. Prince Edward County are told as a way to view the aftermath of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Throughout the unit, different genres of non-fiction and fiction are brought together to help students make text-to-text, text-to-self, and text-to-world connections.

The unit also includes an interactive hands-on scavenger hunt to teach children about the Jim Crow Era through the use of technology including: iPads and QR codes. A list of related resources, activities, informational texts, and the actual verses with their ties to historical events are included. This unit is sure to engage students from the intermediate grades through high school and can easily be adapted to reach high school English and history classes. It also could be adapted to meet Common Core Standards.

(Developed for Language Arts and Social Studies, grade 4; recommended for English/Language Arts and History, grades 5-9)

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