



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

to strengthen teaching in public schools®

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2015 Volume I: Literature and Information

Revisiting Race and Riot: Exploring Tulsa's Conflicts in Fiction, Nonfiction, and Image

Guide for Curriculum Unit 15.01.09, published September 2015
by Krista Waldron

This unit comes from a seminar about fiction and nonfiction texts and effective pairing of the two. It addresses Common Core standards and Oklahoma state standards. The first two thirds covers the 1921 race riot in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We'll look at context, causes, social themes, recovery, and the literary nature of all texts, whether fictional or informational, primary or secondary. The last third connects the riot to more recent events that include race and authority, including those we know the most: Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Freddie Gray, all of whom received international attention because their deaths seemed to be related to race and were not necessary. Included texts and sources are fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and image. The anchor fiction is Rilla Askew's *Fire in Beulah*. The texts include news journalism—old and new, well-known essays, online collections of images, Harlem Renaissance and new poems. This unit was written for middle and high school classrooms. My students are middle and high school mixed into multi-grade classes. I teach at-risk and adjudicated youth who for whom social justice issues are especially relevant and for whom academics have not been a priority. Some strategies were selected with this in mind.

(Developed for English I, grade 9, English II, grade 10, and English III/IV, grades 11-12; recommended for English/Language Arts and History/Social Studies, grades 8-12)

<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