



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2017 Volume II: Literature, Life-Writing, and Identity

Uncovering Individuality in a Scripted World

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Who am I? and Where am I Going? are two questions that many teens struggle to answer in efforts to define their identity. For some, these two questions, although seemingly connected, are confusing to ponder and overwhelming to decide. For others, these two questions are redundant, and original responses are ludicrous when the answers have already been defined. In an effort to help my students more clearly define the difference between their *person* and their *personal experience*, this unit allows students to view life and identity through the characters in August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson* and selections regarding the Greenwood District and the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. Through the process of research, analysis, and theatrical character development, students will be able to explore various aspects of individual identity in connection with familial, social, and political constructs.

(Developed for Language Arts, grade 7; recommended for Language Arts, grades 8-12, United States History, grade 11, African American Studies, grades 11-12, and Oklahoma History, grade 9)

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