



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

*to strengthen teaching in public schools®*

Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative

2024 Volume II: A History of Black People as Readers: A Genealogy of Critical Literacy

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## Through the Labor of Literacy

Guide for Curriculum Unit 24.02.05, published September 2024

by Tyriese Holloway

This unit focuses on educators supporting students by understanding the political dimensions of illiteracy, using it as a theoretical foundation. It empowers students to take ownership of their lives and histories, exploring essential questions such as defining intelligence, the role of learning in intelligence, and the influence of teaching experiences. Texts include Carol Dweck’s “The Secret to Raising Smart Kids,” Paul Lawrence Dunbar’s “Sparrow” alongside Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” and Evie Shockley’s “The Lost Love Letters of Frederick Douglass” complementing Frederick Douglass’s narratives.

Using Penn’s Literacy Network’s “Four Lenses of Literacy” within a digital curriculum (StudySync), the unit integrates meaning-centered, social, language, and human lenses. These lenses support students’ diverse needs in navigating digital learning environments, encouraging engaged and active learning.

(Developed for English I-Honors, grade 9; recommended for English I, grade 9)

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