



# YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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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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## Freedom Dreaming: Critical Thought Through Imagination

Guide for Curriculum Unit 24.02.06, published September 2024

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The primary purpose of this curriculum unit is to empower students to visualize what changes they wish to see in society and to create tangible steps toward actualizing that vision. In this curriculum, students will engage in collaborative inquiry and critical self-reflection to create solutions for societal issues that are relevant to them, a process known as *freedom dreaming*. By analyzing historical and contemporary social movements, students will be led to purposefully use their imagination to articulate the societal struggles that affect them and to create a plan to actualize their visions of a better world.

This unit was created with grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> in mind, however it is adaptable for all grade bands. It is designed to explore the concept of freedom dreams through a logical sequence where students weave through an arc that begins with a fully realized collective dream and leads to deeper inquiry into a diverse range of stories and outcomes. By exploring different freedom dreams, students will cultivate a deep understanding of the power their imaginative renderings hold. It is my dream that students will leverage their experience from this project outside of the school building and continue dreaming and imagining and dreaming again and reimagining until their dreams are reflected in world.

(Developed for Social Studies and Music, grades 7-8; recommended for Social Studies/Civics, Media Arts, and Interdisciplinary Studies, grades 6-8)

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