

Brotherhood is the story of a fourteen year-old white boy who befriends a black teacher and comes to question the racial prejudices he has been taught.

Set during Reconstruction, the story helps students appreciate the complexity of relationships between whites and African Americans in the South after the Civil War, and the import of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the constitution. By encouraging students to experience vicariously what it might have felt like to live in Richmond, VA, in 1867, the book allows teachers to introduce, develop and/or discuss the following

VA Standards of Learning United States History 1865 to the present

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

USII.1

The student will demonstrate skills for historical and geographical analysis and responsible citizenship, including the ability to

- a) analyze and interpret primary and secondary source documents to increase understanding of events and life in United States history;
- b) make connections between the past and the present;
- d) interpret ideas and events from different historical perspectives;
- f) analyze and interpret maps that include major physical features;
- i) identify the costs and benefits of specific choices made, including the consequences, both intended and unintended, of the decisions and how people and nations responded to positive and negative incentives.

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDINGS

USII.3b:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by describing the impact of Reconstruction policies on the South and North.

- The Reconstruction policies were harsh and created problems in the South.
- Reconstruction attempted to give meaning to the freedom that former enslaved African Americans had achieved.

USII.4c:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of how life changed after the Civil War by describing racial segregation, the rise of “Jim Crow,” and other constraints faced by African Americans and other groups in the post-Reconstruction South.

- Discrimination against African Americans continued after Reconstruction.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

USII.3a:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by analyzing the impact of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

Basic provisions of the Amendments

- The 13th Amendment bans slavery in the United States and all of its territories.
- The 14th Amendment grants citizenship to all persons born in the United States and guarantees them equal protection under the law.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE (continued)

- The 15th Amendment ensures all citizens the right to vote regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

These three amendments guarantee equal protection under the law for all citizens.

USII.3b:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by describing the impact of Reconstruction policies on the South and North.

Reconstruction policies and problems

- Southern military leaders could not hold office.
- African Americans could hold public office.
- African Americans gained equal rights as a result of the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which also authorized the use of federal troops for its enforcement.
- Northern soldiers supervised the South.
- The Freedmen's Bureau was established to aid former enslaved African Americans in the South.
- Southerners resented Northern "carpetbaggers," who took advantage of the South during Reconstruction.
- Southern states adopted Black Codes to limit the economic and physical freedom of former slaves.

USII.3c:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the effects of Reconstruction on American life by describing the legacies of Abraham Lincoln, Robert E. Lee, and Frederick Douglass.

Abraham Lincoln

- Reconstruction plan calling for reconciliation.
- Preservation of the Union was more important than punishing the South.

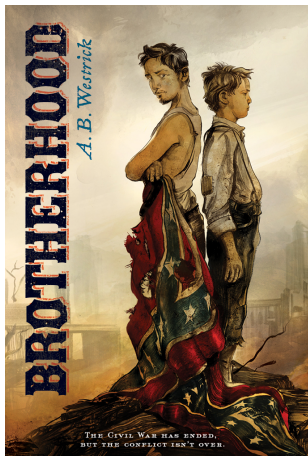
Robert E. Lee

- Urged Southerners to reconcile with Northerners at the end of the war and reunite as Americans when some wanted to continue to fight.

USII.6.b:

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the social, economic, and technological changes of the early twentieth century by describing the social and economic changes that took place, including prohibition and the Great Migration north and west.

- Jobs for African Americans in the South were scarce and low paying.



Brotherhood by A. B. Westrick

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