

**LESSON M-UI-L2**

# Another View of an American Moment

**Unit I:** Human Behavior

**Grade Levels:** 6-8

**Time:** 90 Minutes



# Another View of an American Moment

**Lesson:** M-UI-L2

**Unit I:** Human Behavior

**Grade Levels:** 6-8

**Time:** 90 Minutes

## Objective

Analyze and evaluate specific examples of the problems that arose out of segregation in America.

## Key Terms

- bystander
- collaborator
- human rights
- integration
- Jim Crow laws
- perpetrator
- upstander
- segregation
- victim

## Lesson Materials

- Copy of the film *Forrest Gump* (Use the Little Rock Nine scene from *Forrest Gump* when a girl walking into school drops her books (Chapter 4 of the video at approximately minute 23))
- Photographs of sit-ins and protests (found at the following web site:  
<http://blogs.loc.gov/picturethis/2012/02/visible-resistance-civil-rights-photographs/>)

## Lesson Plan

- Show the clip from *Forrest Gump* and have the students write their reactions to this movie clip.
- Have the students discuss the terms *bystander*, *perpetrator*, *collaborator*, and *victim*.
- Instruct the students that they will view the movie clip a second time and identify the key terms that were just reviewed.
- Discuss questions that arise from defining the roles. Suggested discussion questions include but are not limited to the following:
  - Why was there such hatred aimed at these children?
  - Why does Forrest Gump help?
  - Does Forrest see just the little girl or the entire picture?
  - What is the power of one person?
  - Is there more than “one” in this clip?

- Who is empowered in this clip?
  - Are you able to divide the group into “us” and “them?”
  - Who is afraid in this clip?
  - What is the cause of their fear?
  - How are they handling this fear? (not only the victim, but also the perpetrator?)
- If the film *Forrest Gump* is not available, use photographs of sit-ins and protests to implement this lesson. Many of the same questions listed above may be used with the photographs.

## Evidence of Understanding

Independently or in small groups, have the students brainstorm and identify specific examples of problems arising out of segregation or differences among groups in America. For each example, ask students to identify victim, bystander, upstander, perpetrator, and collaborator.

## Additional Activities and Resources

Research the lives of Elizabeth Eckford and Hazel Massery. Ask the students: “Fifty years later in 2007, where were the two women and what were they doing? How did this event shape their lives? Did their views of one another change? Explain.” Have the students use the following resources:

<http://www.clintonschoolspeakers.com/lecture/view/elizabeth-eckford-hazel-massery-and-photo-changed-/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X46XuWzpFgA>

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-29-Littlerock\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-29-Littlerock_N.htm)

## Taking Action and Giving Service

Identify and interview an upstander in your community and write about that person for your local newspaper or online news service.

## Teacher Resources

### Little Rock Nine

- <http://www.teachingtolerance.org>: This site offers a wide variety of resources and free materials that would be helpful for teaching these issues. This organization also offers a free magazine that addresses many of the issues that may come up in this lesson.
- <http://www.splcenter.org>: This is the web address for the Southern Poverty Law Center. There are a wide variety of resources including information on modern hate groups.
- <http://www.centralhigh57.org>: This is a web site that deals with the integration of schools in Little Rock. There are biographies of the Little Rock Nine as well as activities and lesson plans.

## Jim Crow Laws

- <http://www.jimcrowhistory.org>: This site has a good historical background of the Jim Crow laws as well as other
- <http://www.afroamhistory.about.com>: This site has background on the Jim Crow laws as well as links to other sources. There are also pictures of America during segregation as well as signs from that era.
- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/jimcrow/index.html>: This site has not only information on the Jim Crow laws but also stories related to them.

## Segregation

- <http://www.remembersegregation.org>: This is an interactive site that helps people understand the issues that went along with segregation.
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/>: This site has the story as well as teacher resources.
- <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/brown/brown-segregation.html>: This is a Library of Congress site that deals in detail with the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education case.

## Emmett Till

- <http://www.afroamhistory.about.com>: The Emmett Till case is discussed on this site in detail, including pictures.
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/till/index.html>: This site has the story as well as teacher resources.