



Structured Read-Aloud & Vocabulary (SRA-V) Lesson Plan

LEXILE READING
RANGE: 380

AGE
RANGE: 4-8

BOOK TITLE	Henry's Freedom Box
AUTHOR	Ellen Levine
ILLUSTRATOR	Kadir Nelson
BOOK TYPE	Historical Fiction
AWARDS	Caldecott Honor Award - 2008

PRE-READ BOOK

- › Mark specific stopping points to discuss (use sticky notes)
- › Mark pages where identified Vocabulary Words are located (use sticky notes)

VOCABULARY DOK LEVEL 2

INTRODUCE VOCABULARY WORDS	PROVIDE DEFINITION
Beckoned	Signal with hands, nod, or other gesture
Rattling	Rapid series of short, loud sounds
Pried	To move or force
Ingenious	Showing inventiveness and skill

- › Post words on a “Word Wall” for everyone to see
 - Use word in sentence
 - Allow random students to use word in sentence

ASK STUDENTS TO IDENTIFY VOCABULARY WORDS WHILE LISTENING TO STORY (PRACTICE)

EXAMPLES: Ask students to take an action when they hear the vocabulary word. Actions could include: raising hand, putting thumbs up, standing up/sitting down, putting hands on head/in lap, or making animal noises. Alternatively, ask students to make a tally mark each time they hear the vocabulary word. See who has the correct number at the end of the book.

READ BOOK AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING DOK LEVEL 1

- › Title
- › Author
- › Illustrator
- › Main Characters
- › Discussion Points

BOOK FOLLOW-UP DOK LEVEL 1

- › Ask questions (who, what, where, why, when, and how)
- › Describe favorite parts of book
- › Vocabulary Rewind DOK LEVEL 1
 - Where did they hear the words?
 - How were they used?
 - How many times did they hear each word?
- › Read other books by same author
- › Read other books by same illustrator

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Question 1 DOK LEVEL 2

What might be some reasons why a slave was never told his birth date?

Answer

- › No reason to keep track – slaves were held in same regard as animals
 - › Law might change so that slaves of a certain age would be free –
If no record, slaves could not prove age
 - › No birth certificates were made
 - › A mother feared becoming too attached to her child in case they were taken from her
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Question 2 DOK LEVEL 2

Why didn't Henry say "thank you" to his master after being given to the master's son?

Answer

Henry was hoping to be freed so to say "thank you" would be a lie. He said nothing so he would not be telling a lie.

Question 3 DOK LEVEL 2

What was the significance of watching the leaves swirling in the wind?

Answer

Mom had said that things could change — "They are torn from the tress like slave children are torn from their families" — And now, Henry was being torn from his family.

Question 4 DOK LEVEL 2

What was unusual about the way Henry and his wife, Nancy, lived married life?

Answer

They were allowed to live together even though they had different masters.

Question 5 DOK LEVEL 2

What does "twisted" mean?

Answer

Henry wrung the leaves of the plant; his heart felt heavy and sad.

Question 6 DOK LEVEL 2

What made Henry sad?

Answer

His family was taken away and sold to a new master.

Question 7 DOK LEVEL 2

What is Henry's plan to be free?

Answer

Mail himself in a crate.

Question 8 DOK LEVEL 2

Why did Dr. Smith write "This Side Up, With Care"?

Answer

So that Henry would be treated gently and be upright.

Question 9 DOK LEVEL 3

Vitriol is highly a corrosive acid. Why did Henry pour the oil of Vitriol on his hand?

Answer

So that he would be able to stay home from work without causing suspicion and could put his plan into place

Question 10 DOK LEVEL 2

Where is Henry mailed to? Why?

Answer

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Because it is a free state.

Question 11 DOK LEVEL 4

Why didn't the men see Henry in the box?

Answer

The illustrator let us see into the box but didn't let the men see inside.

Question 12 DOK LEVEL 3

Why were the men correct in saying that the box contained mail?

Answer

Henry was sealed up and being delivered, just like mail.

Question 13 DOK LEVEL 4

How could March 30, 1849 be Henry’s birth date when he was already a man on that date?

Answer

It was the day he was “born” into freedom. The day he stepped out of the box.

Question 14 DOK LEVEL 3

What is Henry’s Freedom Box?

Answer

The box he shipped himself in to gain freedom.

VOCABULARY GAME (INCLUDE ALL PREVIOUS WORDS) DOK LEVEL 1

- › Swat The Word: Divide class into two teams facing the vocabulary words. Each person at the front of the line holds a flyswatter. Tutor gives the definition of a word and the first person to swat the correct word and use it in a sentence correctly gets a point. Continue until all students have had a turn or all the words have been defined.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY (CRAFT, GAME, PLAY, ETC.) DOK LEVEL 4

- › February is Black History Month. Read other books about the Underground Railroad, slavery, famous black individuals, books written by black authors.
- › Compare and Contrast the lives of children now with the life of Henry.
- › Compare how each child got his/her middle name and when their birthday is to how Henry received his middle name and the significance of his birth date.
- › What is the difference between being a slave and being a servant? Which would you rather be and why?
- › Imagine shipping yourself in a box to somewhere else. Where would you want to go? What would you encounter on your journey?



PLAN BY DAY

DAY 1 DOK LEVEL 2

- › Introduce Vocabulary, including definition, words in a sentence, and student use of words in a sentence
- › Review Word Wall
- › Introduce Book, including Title, Author, & Illustrator DOK LEVEL 2
- › Allow Students to Foreshadow – “What do you think this book might be about?”
 - Use POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT to acknowledge student input
- › If time, Introduce Activity for recognizing Vocabulary Words & Practice

DAY 2 DOK LEVEL 1

- › Review Vocabulary DOK LEVEL 1
- › Introduce, or Review, Activity for recognizing Vocabulary Words
- › Begin Reading Book DOK LEVEL 2
- › Address all Discussion Points
(Examples: Have you ever ridden on a boat? Do you have a pet? What is your favorite season?)
- › Allow students time to respond but keep focused on book content and things related to story

DAY 3 DOK LEVEL 1

- › Review Vocabulary
- › Continue Book, if not completed DOK LEVEL 1
- › Book Follow-Up (See above)
- › Review Comprehension Questions and have conversation surrounding questions/answers

DAY 4 DOK LEVEL 1

- › Review Vocabulary DOK LEVEL 1
- › Vocabulary Game / Activity Day