

Multiple Intelligence Projects

Talkin' about Bessie:

The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman

written by Nikki Grimes

illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Orchard Books / Scholastic, 2002



Verbal / Linguistic

Brainstorm what life was like in the 1890's as far as technology, transportation, daily life and social climate. Discuss the Jim Crow laws of the South and hypothesize what an African American girl of that time could be expected to accomplish with her life.

Logical / Mathematical

Using the text for examples, fill out the character map about Bessie Coleman available on this page.

Visual / Spatial

Create a piece of art inspired by the life of Bessie Coleman. Any media or form is valid, as long as you explain your choice in the brief journal that must be turned in with the art. Impress.

Body / Kinesthetic

In pairs, act out the scene of dialogue you wrote for the comprehension guide. Be sure to practice before your performance and be respectful to the characters you represent. Costumes are optional, but memorization is not.

Musical /Rhythmic

Listen to the music that was popular in Chicago during the time Bessie moved there. Explore the history of early jazz on this website, too. Then, write a brief journal about how you think music changes over time, and why each generation seems to define itself by the music they listen to. How will your generation be remembered?

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/smithsonian-jazz/education/what-jazz>

Intrapersonal

Group Project: In groups of no more than four, assign the following topics to students:

- Jim Crow laws
- Early aviation
- Ida B. Wells
- Madame C.J. Walker

- Mary Church Terrell
- Booker T. Washington
- Paul Lawrence Dunbar
- Chicago Defender
- Barnstormers

Students must create: a pamphlet describing the information about the topic, divided into sub-headings that are specific to, and pertinent to their subject. Also, a poster highlighting the main ideas of the pamphlet and featuring full color illustrations or pictures must be completed.

Intrapersonal

After the group assignment, each member must turn in a short journal about what they contributed to the project, and what they learned about working in a group. Also, a brief summary of what they learned about perseverance through reading about Ms. Coleman.