Did you know?

The Hope Chest

Hamilton County Schools, TN
4th Grade

Overview of what is taught

Historical Fiction of the events leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment.

EL Education Description and Teacher Talking Points

- Teacher notes - How can you support your student at home?
    - Answer: Research and discuss social justice issues in the United States and in home countries, and how people have taken action and made a difference in support of social justice.
- As students learn about Jim Crow laws, The influenza, and World War 1, they are asked how these things might have affected the lives of Women only. Shouldn't we be asking how these things affected all people?
- Jim Crow laws: "The laws were made by white people, who felt they were superior, or better, and felt they deserved to be treated better."
- Inequality is injustice: "The police treat the suffragists as though they are not as intelligent as men." Ex: "Try to get this through that female wool you call a brain. The female mind isn't capable of making fine distinctions of logic."
    - "This is inequality and it is unfair." (Repeated statement throughout lessons)
- Do something Meaningful: "In this book, both Chloe and Violet take risks in order to do something meaningful with their lives."
    - "When people take action against inequality, they can cause social change."
    - ➔ As a class, students identify an issue in their community and make a plan for how they will take action - through service, advocacy, or philanthropy.
    - ➔ Specific, effective learning skills students will focus on:
      Take care of and improve our shared spaces and the environment
      Apply my learning to help our school, the community, and the

environment.

GENDER EQUALITY

- Student Worksheet: Regardless of where you live, gender equality is a human right.
  - List examples of things you have the right to do, just as others of the opposite gender do.
- Gender equality is an entitlement or privilege belonging to every single person, everywhere. Everyone is entitled to the same rights and opportunities, no matter what gender they are.
- Youth Guide to the Global Goals: “Gender equality is a precondition for making any serious shift towards a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world.”
- “Denying equal suffrage to women is a terrible injustice.”
  - “I would feel _____ about denying women the right to vote.”
  - “Denying _____ is a _____ injustice.”

Concerns

- Anti-Family: The main character is an 11 year old girl who seems to despise her parents. She never talks about them fondly. She imagines life without her parents and says “It would be strange. Like a house without a roof.”

- Anti-Men: The men in the book who are not openly for women’s rights are depicted as either alcoholics or men who think women are no better than dirt.

- Feminism: The women who are against the 19th amendment are depicted as tired, flighty, or judgemental. Being a mother or a wife is depicted as oppressive. The main character wants to do something meaningful with her life and the idea of being a wife and a mother makes her feel caged in.

- Anti-American: Although socialism was a part of the suffragist movement, this book glamorizes socialism. Socialism is described as “taking care of each other, not just yourself.”
  “Socialists are good Americans. They believe in cooperation instead of competition. Many of the greatest and wisest people in our country are socialists”