

***The Slave Dancer* by Paula Fox**

English Language Arts, 7th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

One day, thirteen-year old Jessie Bollier is earning pennies playing his fife on the docks of New Orleans; the next, he is kidnapped and thrown aboard a slave ship, where his job is to provide music while shackled slaves “dance” to keep their muscles strong and their bodies profitable. Jessie becomes sickened by the greed, and inhumanity of the slave trade, but he is not prepared for the horror that awaits him.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 2: Issues & Explorations of the World**
 - What issues are important to an individual and how do we gather the resources needed for exploration?
- **Unit 4: Stories & the Human Spirit**
 - How do different authors tell stories and portray the human spirit?

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one -on- one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on other’s ideas and experiencing their own clearly. SL.7.1
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text: provide an objective summary of the text. RL.7.2
- Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (e.g. how setting shapes the characters or plot). RL.7.3
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings RL.7.4
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. W.7.3

- With some guidance and support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, editing or trying a new approach, focusing on how well the purpose and audience have been addressed? W.7.5
- Explain how the author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text. Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the point of view of different characters or narrators in a text RL.7.6
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation. W.7.7
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each new source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. W.7.8
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. Language in Writing .W.7.9
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing W.7.10
- Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history. RL.7.9
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when reading to aid comprehension. RL.7.10
- Demonstrate an understanding of figurative language , word relationships, and nuances in word meanings. RL.7.12