



*Picture Book
Partners*



presents

Dinner at Aunt Connie's House

By Faith Ringgold



Common Core Standards Addressed:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.5.6 Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

Digital Connection:

Gain the interest of students by challenging them to create an online painting that tells a story. Discuss how they believe a painting could be used to tell a story.

<http://kids.tate.org.uk/games/paint>

Guiding Questions:

1. Name three achievements of the women in the paintings.
2. What does the author mean when she says that *Aunt Connie's paintings were no longer hanging on the dining room walls but sitting in the chairs around the table as our dinner guests?*
3. Where do you think the author got the quotes that Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Maria Stewart said as the paintings were hanging around the table?
4. Read the book's afterward. How did the author's beliefs about art influence how she told the story?
5. What was the author's purpose for writing this story?



Extension Idea:

Research one of the women in the story or another notable African-American woman, and create a card about her and her achievements. Print one to keep and one to trade.

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/trading_cards_2/

Answer Key:

1. Example Answers: Rosa Park's actions started the Montgomery bus boycott and inspired Martin Luther King Jr. to devote his life to the civil rights movement. Fannie Lou Hamer helped thousands of people register to vote. Mary McLeod Bethune founded Bethune Cookman College and founded the National Council of Negro Women. Augusta Savage founded the Savage Studio of Arts and Crafts in Harlem. Dorothy Dandridge became a famous Hollywood actress. Zora Neale Hurston became a famous writer. Maria W. Steward was the first African American to lecture in defense of women's rights. Bessie Smith was a famous blues singer. Harriet Tubman brought more than 300 slaves to freedom in the North. Sojourner Truth was a preacher and abolitionist who spoke out for women's rights. Marian Anderson was a famous singer and was the first African American to perform with the Metropolitan Opera Company. Madame C.J. Walker was the first self-made American woman millionaire.
2. The author means that the stories behind the paintings made the women come to life. It made it seem as if they were right there in the room with them.
3. I think she did research and found some things that the women actually said.
4. Faith Ringgold believes that art is more than a picture on a wall. It can be magical, so she decided to make the paintings talk in the story.
5. The author wrote this story to celebrate the great contributions to American history by African-American women.



Name three achievements of the women in the paintings.

What does it mean when the author says that *Aunt Connie's paintings were no longer hanging on the dining room walls but sitting in the chairs around the table as our dinner guests?*



Where do you think the author got the quotes that Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Maria Stewart said as the paintings were hanging around the table?

Read the book's afterward. How did the author's beliefs about art influence how the story was told?



Reprint: Originally published: New York : Hyperion Books for Children, c1993. "First Scholastic printing, January 1997"--Verso t.p. Dinner at Aunt Connie's is even more special than usual when Melody meets not only her new adopted cousin but twelve inspiring African-American women, who step out of their portraits and join the family for dinner. They have gone to their Aunt Connie's house for a big annual dinner and the display of her new art. Family comraderie is also a part of the story. By the end Melody has decided to grow up to become President of the United States and Lonnie will be a great opera singer!Â Dinner at Aunt Connie's House tells of a african-american family gathering where paintings of *great women* come to life. This is a wonderful book that encourages young children that all dreams are possible, no matter what the obstacles. The only draw back is that the flow of the book is sometimes hard to follow. Dinner at Aunt Connie's is even more special than usual when Melody meets not only her new adopted cousin but twelve inspiring African-American women, who step out of their portraits and join the family for dinner. If a Bus Could Talk: The Story of Rosa Parks. A biography of the African American woman and civil rights worker whose refusal to give up her seat on a bus led to a boycott which lasted more than a year in Montgomery, Alabama. The Invisible Princess. Mama and Papa Love, have a child, the Invisible Princess, who saves them and the other plantation slaves from their cruel master s