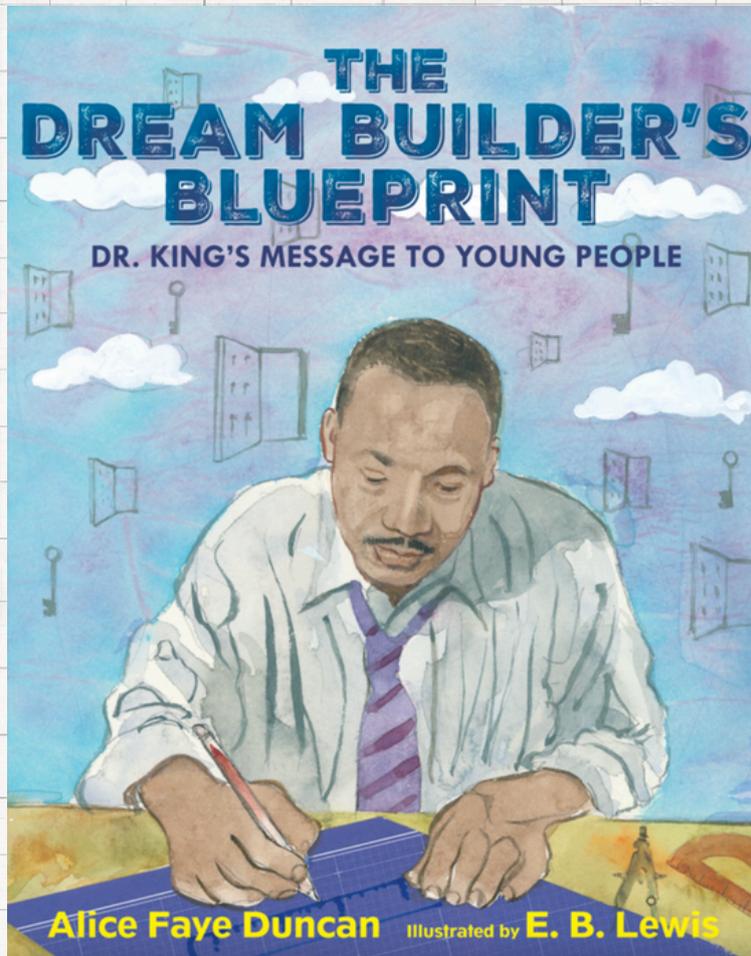


Standard-Aligned Lesson Plans

for



These classroom lessons are designed to accompany *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* and support student engagement with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of self-worth, perseverance, justice, and nonviolence.

The lessons encourage students to:

- Ask and answer questions about key details
- Analyze illustrations and meaning in text
- Develop and support written opinions
- Identify theme and central message
- Make personal connections to the text

**THE DREAM BUILDER'S BLUEPRINT: DR. KING'S MESSAGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE
BY ALICE FAYE DUNCAN**

Lesson:

Author:
Grade Level:

Introduction:

Learning Objective

Guiding Question

Curriculum Standards

Materials

Before You Read

While You Read

After You Read

Partner Assignment:

Personal Assignment:

Closure:

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Lesson 1: My Dream Blueprint

Author: Patricia Lockhart
Grade Level:
KK - 1st Grade

Introduction: Today, we are going to learn about blueprints. A blueprint is a plan that builders use to show what they are going to build. As we read *The Dream Builder's Blueprint*, we will think about what makes each of us special. Then we will create our own blueprint portraits to show who we are and what is important in our lives.

Learning Objective:

Students will draw a blueprint that represents who they are.

Guiding Question:

How can I show others who I am and what is important to me?

Curriculum Standards:

- 1.W.K.2 - Use a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to compose informative texts.
- 2.SL.K.4 - Describe familiar people, places, things and events.

Materials:

1. *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* by Alice Faye Duncan.
2. Blueprint Portrait Template
3. Coloring materials

Before You Read

1. Preview the cover and title.
2. Ask: What is a blueprint?
What do builders use it for?
What do you think this book will be about?

While You Read

Ask the following questions:

1. *You Count* - How do you know you are special?
2. *Black is Beautiful* - What do you love about yourself?
3. *Achieve Excellence* - What does it mean to do your very best?
4. *Make a Better World* - How can you help others?
5. *Believe in Nonviolence* - How can we solve problems with kindness?

After You Read

Discuss:

What are some things that make you who you are? What helps you grow and learn?

Partner Assignment: Turn and talk with a partner, "What are some things that make you special?"

Personal Assignment: Draw a picture of yourself. Include pictures of what's important to you.

Closure: Invite student to share their blueprints.

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Lesson 2: Digging into the Details

Author: Patricia Lockhart
Grade Level:
3rd – 5th Grade

Introduction: Today, we are going to practice being close readers. Close readers pay attention to important details in a story to help them understand the author's message. As we read *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People*, we will listen carefully for key words, powerful phrases, and important ideas. Good readers don't just hear the story – they think about what it means. Our job today is to dig into the details to discover what Alice Faye Duncan's message is teaching us.

Learning Objective:

Students will ask and answer questions about key details using evidence from the text.

Guiding Question:

How do the important details in the story help us understand what the author is teaching us?

Curriculum Standards:

RL.KID.1 – Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

Materials:

1. *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* by Alice Faye Duncan.
2. Text Dependent Questions Worksheet

Before You Read

1. Preview the cover and title.
2. Ask: What is a blueprint?
What do builders use it for?
What do you think this book will be about?

While You Read

1. Pause intentionally at powerful phrases such as: "doors of opportunity" and "long nights of oppression"
2. Think aloud to model close reading:
 - a. I noticed the author used the word "doors." I'm wondering why she chose that word instead of just saying "opportunities."
3. Ask brief, text-dependent questions:
 - a. What is happening here?
 - b. What details stand out?

After You Read

Discuss:
What details do you remember most? Which words felt important?

Partner Assignment: Complete the Lesson 2: Text Dependent Questions Worksheet.

Personal Assignment: Create a new slogan inspired by the book, *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* by Alice Faye Duncan that reflects the core message.

Closure: What is one detail from the book that helped you understand its message?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 2: Text Dependent Questions

Write your answers to the following questions.

1 What is a blueprint?

2 What do "doors" represent?

3 What are "long nights of oppression"?

4 What is something you should believe in? Give 1 example from the text and 1 personal example.

5 According to the text, what should our new slogan be?

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Lesson 3: Pictures Speak Too

Author: Patricia Lockhart
Grade Level:
2nd – 3rd Grade

Introduction: Illustrations in a story are more than just pictures — they help readers understand the meaning, mood, and message of the text. Today, we will pay close attention to how the illustrations in *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* add information that the words alone may not show. Good readers use both the pictures and the words to deepen their understanding.

Learning Objective:

Students will analyze illustrations to determine how they add meaning and support the message of the text.

Guiding Question:

How do illustrations in a text contribute to what the text is trying to convey?

Curriculum Standards:

RL.IK1.7 – Explain how illustrations in a text contribute to what is conveyed by the words.

Materials:

1. *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* by Alice Faye Duncan.
2. Drawing paper or *Pictures Speak Too* Worksheet
3. Coloring materials

Before You Read

1. How does the title relate to the picture on the cover?
2. Based on the picture, what do you think the story might be about?

While You Read

1. Why did the illustrator draw so many doors?
2. On pages 9-10, what do you notice about the stacks of paper?
3. Why does the cotton seem to turn into stars?

After You Read

Discuss:
What was your favorite page of the book?

Partner Assignment: Turn and Talk: Choose one picture from the book. How did the picture help you to understand the story better?

Personal Assignment: Student will complete *Pictures Speak Too* worksheet.

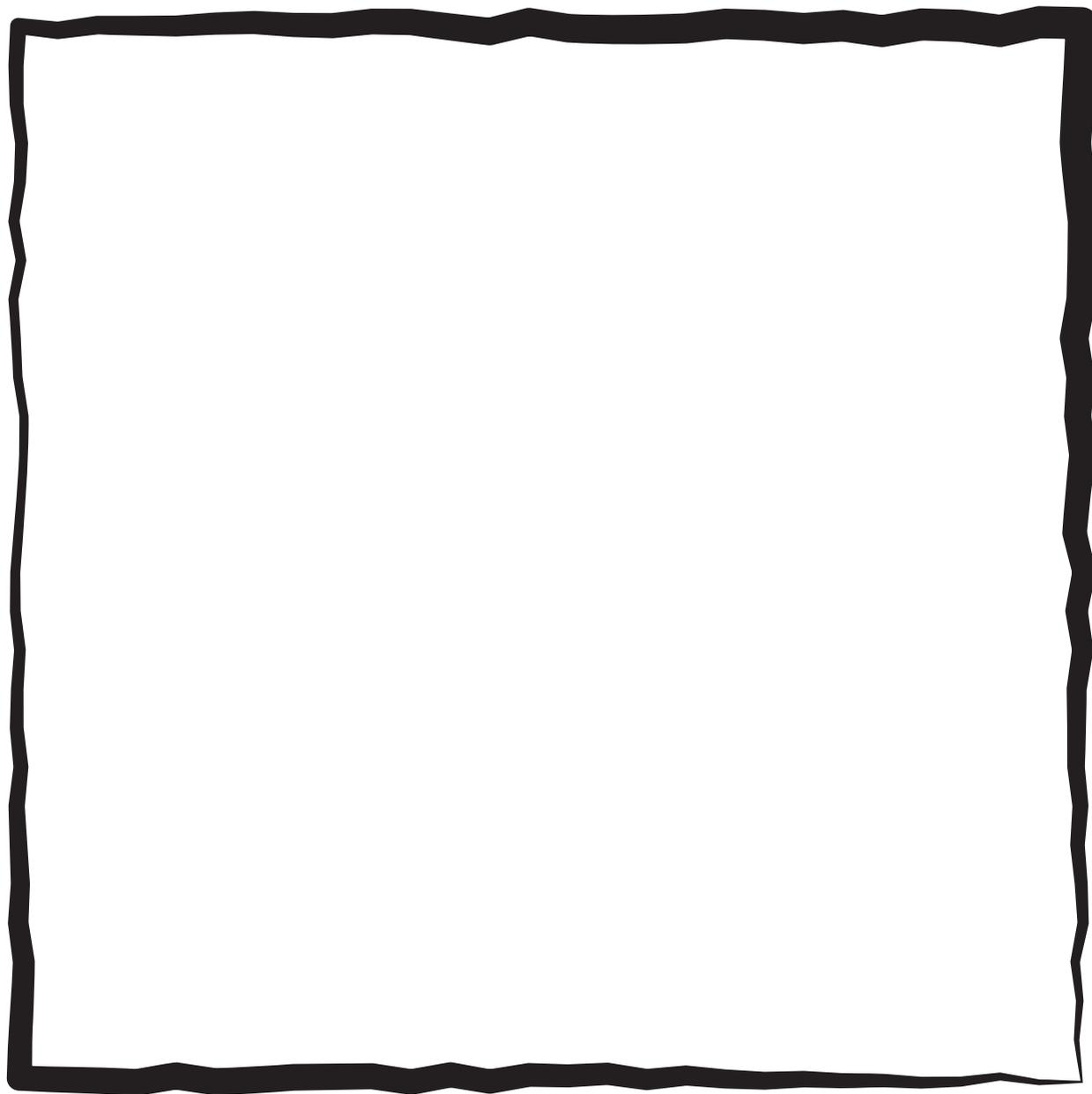
Closure: How did your picture show the message of the story? How did the illustrator help you understand the book?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 3: Pictures Speak Too

Students will draw a picture that shows what the book meant to them.



My picture shows _____

because _____.

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Lesson 4: Building a Dream

Author: Patricia Lockhart
Grade Level:
4th - 5th Grade

Introduction: Writers often share their opinions to convince others about what they believe is important. An opinion is more than just what we think — it includes reasons and evidence that support our thinking. In *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People*, the author presents several qualities that help people build their dreams. Today, we will decide which quality is most important and write an opinion piece explaining our thinking.

Learning Objective:

Students will write an opinion paragraph that states a clear claim and supports it with reasons and evidence from the text.

Guiding Question:

What is the most important quality needed to build a dream?

Curriculum Standards:

W.4.1 - Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

Materials:

1. A copy of *The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People* by Alice Faye Duncan.
2. Paper or Building a Dream Essay Worksheet
3. Pencil

Before You Read

Ask: What does it mean to build a dream? What qualities help people succeed?

While You Read

Pause at the key sections that highlight qualities and ask what quality is being described here. [You count. Achieve Excellence. Make a Better World. Believe in Nonviolence. Keep Moving.]

After You Read

Discuss:
Discuss which quality is most important?

Partner Assignment: Brainstorm some ideas together. What quality do they believe is most important and why.

Personal Assignment: Building a Dream Worksheet. Answer the following prompt: What is the most important quality needed to build a dream? Be sure to tell why.

Closure: How did your picture show the message of the story? How did the illustrator help you understand the book?

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Lesson 5: Dream Builder One-Pager

Author: Patricia Lockhart
Grade Level:
2nd – 3rd Grade

Introduction: The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People is written as an erasure poem, which means the author started with a longer speech and erased many words to highlight the most important ideas. By carefully choosing which words to keep, the author created a clear central message about how to build a meaningful life. Today we will think about the message the author wants us to learn and show our understanding by creating a Dream Builder One-Pager.

Learning Objective:

Students will demonstrate comprehension of the text by creating a visual Dream Builder One-Pager that identifies the central message, key details, and a personal connection to the text.

Guiding Question:

What message is the author teaching about building dreams?

Curriculum Standards:

RL.KID.2 – Determine a theme or central message and explain how it is supported by key details.

Materials:

1. The Dream Builder's Blueprint: Dr. King's Message to Young People by Alice Faye Duncan.
2. Paper or Dream Builder One-Pager Worksheet
3. Pencil

Before You Read

Write possible themes on these words on the board: Believe in yourself; Work hard; Keep going; Be kind; Make the world better

While You Read

1. Ask: What is the author teaching us? What words feel important?
 - a. Encourage students to listen for: Achieve, Self-belief, Justice, Nonviolence

After You Read

Create a class Dream Builder One-Pager together.

Partner Assignment: What message did you learn?

Personal Assignment: Dream Builder One-Pager Worksheet. Find the message of the story and 1 detail that supports the message. Use the message to draw a picture of your dream.

Closure: Ask the students to share their one-pager.

LESSON 5: DREAM BUILDER

Fill in the following blanks and draw a picture of your dream.

THE MESSAGE

The message of the story is:

ONE DETAIL

One thing the author says is:

MY CONNECTION

This means I should:

MY DREAM