



Civil Rights Stories

Activity: Civil Rights Stories

Category: Group Activity

Series: Unsung Heroes (Unsung Heroes of Social Justice)

Supplies

- *Unsung Heroes of Social Justice*
- The book's 12StoryLibrary.com page: <http://www.12storylibrary.com/non-fiction/unsung-heroes/unsung-heroes-of-social-justice/>
 - The “Unsung Heroes of Civil Rights” web resource
- Paper and pencils

Prep

Read through Chapter 12 of *Unsung Heroes of Social Justice*, which describes the work of Bernard Rustin, or assign it to the students to read before class.

Directions

Find the section of the “Unsung Heroes of Civil Rights” online resource about LuVaghn Brown. Read the last three paragraphs out loud to the students (starting with “[Brown] visits schools to share stories...”).

Discuss the following questions as a group:

- Had any of the students heard of Rustin before reading the 12-Story Library chapter?
- Had any of the students heard of the March on Washington?
- Why was the march an important historic event?
- How did Rustin help make the march a success?
- Why do the students think his contributions to civil rights went unrecognized for so long?

Then have the students read the story about Ford Tucker Johnson on the “Unsung Heroes of Civil Rights” web resource. Discuss the following questions as a group:

- What did Ford Tucker Johnson do to contribute to the civil rights movement? Which two of his actions led to Supreme Court cases?
- What changed as a result of Johnson's actions?

- Johnson said, “It was one of those moments where you have to make a decision ... It was just wrong. I was not going to allow myself to do it.” Have you ever been in a situation where you felt forced to do something wrong? How did you react?
- What are some ways that ordinary people today can stand up for what they think is right?

Evaluation

Were the students able to correctly answer questions about the texts, referring to specific details in their answers? Were they able to draw parallels between these stories and life today? RI 5.1, SL 5.1

Purpose

To help students practice engaging in large-group discussions, expressing their ideas clearly, and building on the ideas of others. To begin exploring the reasons why historical stories are (or are not) told.