



HERITAGE FOUNDATION

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TN

Celebrating Preservation Month: May

3rd Grade-5th Grade Students

SSP.05 Develop historical awareness by:

- *Recognizing how and why historical accounts change over time*
- *Recognizing how past events and issues might have been experienced by the people of that time, with historical context and empathy rather than present mindedness*
- *Identifying patterns of continuity and change over time, making connections to the present*

Lesson Intro:

- Ask students to look around their classroom. Really look, what supplies do you see? What technology is available to you? Think about the books, pencils, erasers that you have. Nice restrooms, cafeteria, playgrounds and more.
- There was a time that not everyone saw this in their classrooms. Not everyone had nice new supplies, not everyone's classroom's felt warm and welcoming.
- In 1917, 50 years after slavery was abolished, there was still segregation. Are you familiar with segregation? Reflect on what you have learned.
- Around this time, **Booker T. Washington** and **Julius Rosenwald** partnered up to create a safe place for African American students to learn and go to school. These schools were called the "**Rosenwald Schools**".
- At one time, there is estimated to have been around 5,000 Rosenwald Schools created with four here in Williamson County.
- This school didn't have a front office, a bathroom, or multiple classrooms. This was a one-room schoolhouse.
- Pause and imagine that- being in the same room with friends in 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, 4th grade, and beyond. Pause and imagine some of the many challenges that these students had every single day.
- Of the all the Rosenwald schools built, only a few remain today, one of those school was located in Springhill, TN.
- This February of 2024, The Heritage Foundation of Williamson County carefully moved the school-house to Franklin, TN to **preserve** the school.

Read Aloud: *Dear Mr. Rosenwald* by Carole Weatherford

- This book is a realistic fiction book meaning that the information in the book is real but the characters in the story are fiction.
- This book is structured with subtitles- these are kind of like "mini-chapters"

Discussion Questions:

- 1921: One Room Schoolhouse
 - What does she mean by “vessels of learning”?
 - What is the teacher saying when she responds to the student’s complaints
- Sharecropping
 - Their “Harvest Break” wasn’t quite like a break from school that you may be used to today.
 - How does their break compare to a break that you may take today?
- New School Rally
 - Explain these metaphors.
 - “Strong as an oak”- He would not seek the shade
 - “young minds starved”
 - What did Julius Rosenwald require before he donated the money for the school?
 - Why do you think he made this a requirement?
- Taking Root
 - Discuss the meaning of using the intended graveyard land to plant a new school
 - “Now, a seed is sowed instead.”
- Box Party and Passing the Plate
 - How did Julius Rosenwald’s requirement bring the community together?
- Lumber
 - Discuss the impact that this new construction has on the next **generation**, like Leona.
- Hand-Me-Downs
 - Pot-belly stoves were used to heat the schoolhouse (no air conditioning or heat).
- 1922: White Oak School
 - Tell me about the importance of education.
 - This might be something we often take for granted today.
 - Imagine what life would be like if you could not read? write? calculate?
 - “Your sweat taught us a lesson: Tomorrow is in our hands”

PowerPoint Discussion:

- Slide Two-Three:
 - Julius Rosenwald: philanthropist, President of Sears, Roebuck Co.
 - Booker T. Washington: Formerly enslaved man, African-American Educator, Founder of Tuskegee Institute
- Slide Four:
 - Tuskegee Institute: Early 1920's to present day
 - Why do you think it is important that Tuskegee Institute has been preserved?
- Slide Five:
 - Sears, Roebuck: Major shopping store
 - This was “amazon” during this time- imagine getting a magazine in the mail and ordering from the images. Are you surprised by the prices you see?
- Slide Six-Seven:
 - Just like you may attend a Williamson County School, a Franklin Special School District School or a Metro-Davidson School, your school has it’s own unique name

- Lee- Buckner, a Rosenwald School, was used as a schoolhouse roughly from 1927-1965. (38 years)
- What do you notice about the photography of the early 1900's?
- Do you think that people alive during this time were able to document their lives like we do today?
- Slide Eight-Nine:
 - The first floorplan shows the original plan of 1927
 - The second floorplan shows the addition of 1940
 - What are some things that you notice might be missing from a classroom that you see today?
- Slide Ten-Thirteen:
 - What do you notice about how Lee-Buckner looks today?
 - By saving history, we can make history which is why we are **preserving** the memories of this school.
- Slide Fourteen:
 - Here, we see nine alumni of Lee-Buckner who attended this school likely around your ages. They are grown-ups now in 2024.
 - Discuss how you think it makes the alumni of Lee-Buckner feel that their school is being saved?
 - Why is this important?
- Slide Fifteen:
 - On February 2nd in the wee hours of the morning, Lee Buckner School was moved to Franklin Grove Estate and Gardens. Now one day, you will be able to see and visit the school for yourself.
- Slide Sixteen:
 - This photo that was taken in a Rosenwald school located in Cairo, TN. What are some things that you notice?
- Slide Seventeen:
 - There were several Rosenwald schools in our community, this is a photo of another Rosenwald school in Manchester, TN
- Slide Eighteen:
 - What do you think it means to preserve something?
 - If we love something, we protect it, and restore it back to it's former glory.
 - Our buildings hold memories and stories of the past, when we preserve these buildings, we are able to continue their legacy.
 - Do you think it will be neat to see Lee Buckner for yourself one day?
- Slide Nineteen:
 - Possible journal entry:
 - Why do YOU think it is important to preserve our local history?
 - Why do YOU think preservation is important?
 - Is there a building that holds special memories for you?