



# Celebrating Black History



Visualizing  
and  
Verbalizing®  
Free Supplemental  
Lesson Packet

## HELPFUL ADVICE

These are stories from *Visualizing and Verbalizing® Workbooks* and *Visualizing and Verbalizing Stories* that can be used with any program of instruction to develop imagery for language comprehension, but were developed for the Visualizing and Verbalizing® (V/V)® program. Although these stories have been written at specific grade levels, you can use them with other grade levels as you feel is appropriate. Each story features a main idea or topic to be imaged, and then provides detailed imagery for the topic. While sentences or paragraphs may contain much concrete detail that can be imaged, others contain abstract concepts.

While reading the story, be sure to ask imagery questions to elicit detailed imagery from the student. Some example imagery questions have been provided for you in some of the stories.

Once you have completed each story, move on to the higher order thinking questions. These are main idea, inference, conclusion, evaluation, and prediction questions. The order of the higher order thinking questions is such that they stimulate students' thinking first about the gestalt, and then about the details of the story. Some questions may include contrast or introduce additional information, from which the students can extend their thinking about the story. It is not necessary to ask every question, but be sure you ask enough that your student has the gestalt of the story.

Additional activities are provided in the form of puzzles.

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# Marian Anderson

PARAGRAPH BY PASRAGRAPH

All Marian Anderson, a black woman, wanted to do was sing. She had sung all over Europe and gained much fame. But back in the United States, all people saw was her color. In those days, black people were not allowed to sing in many of the top concert halls.

In 1939, Marian was to sing at the best hall in Washington D.C. The owners refused when they found out she was black. People across the country protested, but the owners still said no.

Eleanor Roosevelt, the President's wife, stepped in. She helped arrange a new concert. Marian sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Over 75,000 people came to hear her sing. Millions more heard her on the radio. The concert inspired many to fight for the equal rights of all people. Marian's voice had led the way.

1. Who helped arrange Marian Anderson's concert in Washington D.C.?
2. Why do you think many people protested the owner's decision not to allow Marian Anderson to sing?
3. Why do you think Eleanor Roosevelt decided to help her?
4. Why do you think so many people listened to the concert?
5. What do you think it means that "Marian's voice had led the way?"





## Rosa Parks Resists

PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH

Rosa Parks, a black woman, stepped on the bus and walked past the first five rows labeled “whites only.” Although those seats were empty, Mrs. Parks moved to the middle section before she sat down exhausted from a long day at work. There she sat quietly watching the scenery of Montgomery, Alabama pass by as the driver made stop after stop.

Soon a white gentleman entered the bus and had no place to sit, so the driver turned and instructed all of the black people to move to the back of the bus. As instructed, each got up and stood in the back, except for Mrs. Parks. She was tired of being treated badly because of her skin color and refused to move. Realizing that she was not going to get up, the driver parked the bus and brought back a police officer who arrested Mrs. Parks. She did not struggle or argue as the officer calmly escorted her to jail.

Mrs. Parks was found guilty of disobeying the city’s segregation laws and ordered to pay a fine, but again she refused. The black people of Montgomery supported Mrs. Parks and refused to ride the buses until the laws were changed. Almost one year later, after the Supreme Court ruled segregation to be illegal, Mrs. Parks rode the bus again. However, this time she rode in the front seat.

1. Where did Rosa Parks sit on the bus?
2. Why did the bus driver tell Mrs. Parks and the other black passengers to move to the back of the bus?
3. Why do you think Mrs. Parks did not struggle or argue when she was taken to jail?
4. Why do you think Mrs. Parks sat in the front seat the next time she got on a bus?
5. Why do you think Rosa Parks is considered a heroine by many people? Explain.



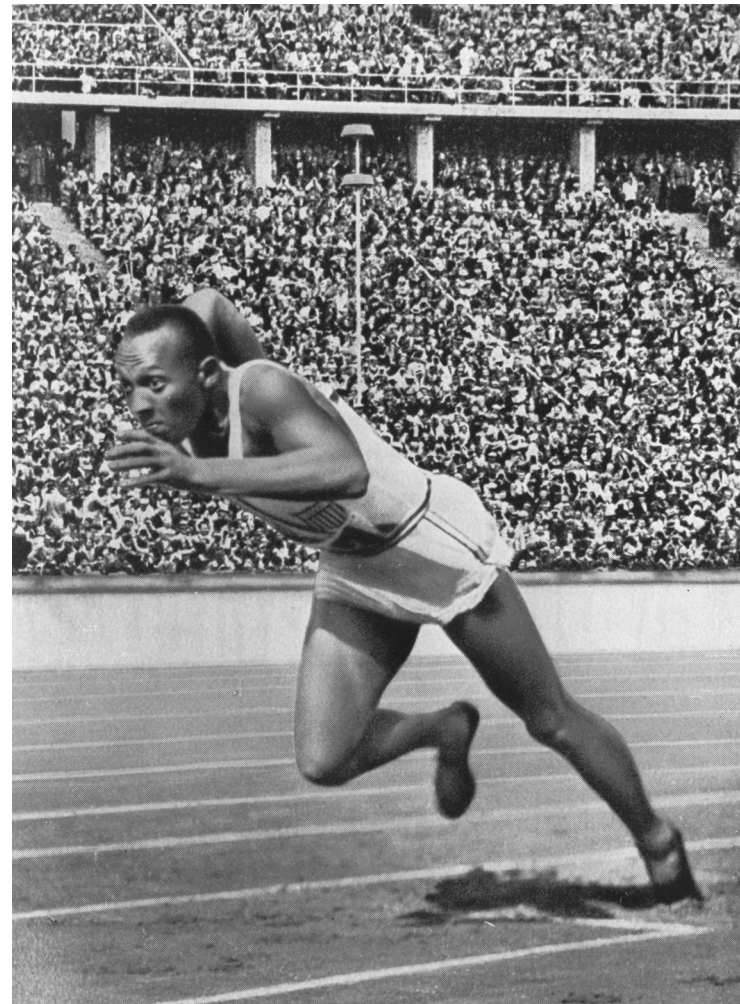
## Jesse Owens Wins

PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH

Jesse Owens, a black man, was one of the greatest track and field athletes in history, but he was treated badly because of the color of his skin. He won four gold medals at the 1936 Olympic games in Germany. At the time, Germany's leader, Hitler, was claiming that only the people of his country would win medals. When Owens won, Hitler slipped out of the stadium to avoid having to shake his hand.

Jesse Owens was not bitter about the Olympics. When people wanted to know if he was angry, he reminded them that his own President hadn't invited him to the White House to shake hands, either. Jesse Owens proved himself above racism; he traveled the world as a goodwill ambassador for the U.S. Department of State. Later, he did much work at home to support youth organizations. In his speeches, Jesse Owens stressed that when the spirit of fair play learned in athletic competition is carried over into life, it helps people be kinder and more understanding to one another.

1. Where did Jesse Owens win his medals?
2. Why do you think Hitler tried to say Germans were the best?
3. What do you think Jesse Owens might have done as a "goodwill ambassador"?
4. What do you think Jesse Owens might have done to support youth organizations?
5. Do you think Jesse Owens became a hero to many people? Explain.



# 4

## The Spy Team

Story from V/V Workbook, Book C, Grade 5

Born a slave, Mary Elizabeth Bowser became a spy in the Civil War. She was a freed slave, but she stayed with Elizabeth Van Lew, her late master's daughter. Mary agreed to be part of a spy team with Elizabeth for the Northern forces. She pretended to be a half-wit slave and served meals in the house of the Southern Army's leader. He and his officers talked about battle strategy in front of her. Then she went to Elizabeth and told her all she had learned. Elizabeth wrote the news in coded letters she hid in egg baskets and got them to the Northern soldiers.



### Vocabulary to Visualize:

**slave:** a person kept captive by another and forced to work or serve

**spy:** a person who secretly gets information

**Civil War:** the war between the northern states and the southern states of the U.S.

fought to end slavery in the south

**half-wit:** foolish or senseless; mad or crazy

**strategy:** detailed plans for attacks

**code:** a system of symbols that translate to a language

**1 First and Second Sentences:** Born a slave, Mary Elizabeth Bowser became a spy in the Civil War. She was a freed slave, but she stayed with Elizabeth Van Lew, her late master's daughter.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. Mary? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. a spy? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. the Civil War? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Elizabeth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Third and Fourth Sentences:** Mary agreed to be part of a spy team with Elizabeth for the Northern forces. She pretended to be a half-wit slave and served meals in the house of the Southern Army's leader.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. a spy team? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. acting like a half-wit slave? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. the Southern army's leader? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. her serving him meals? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3

**Fifth and Sixth Sentences:** He and his officers talked about battle strategy in front of her. Then she went to Elizabeth and told her all she had learned.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. the officers talking? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. where Mary was when they spoke? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Mary listening? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Mary telling Elizabeth? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4

**Seventh Sentence:** Elizabeth wrote the news in coded letters she hid in egg baskets and got them to the Northern soldiers.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. Elizabeth writing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. the letters in code? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. the egg baskets? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. her getting the letters to the Northern soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Picture Summary:**

Number your images in order.

Mary served meals in the house of the South's leader and acted like a half-wit slave.

The news was written in code and delivered to the Northern soldiers by Elizabeth.

Mary Elizabeth Bowser became a spy during the Civil War.

The Southern Army's leader and his officers spoke freely about strategy in front of Mary.

**Write a Word Summary:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Critical Thinking

## Main Idea:

Check the box that best describes all your images—the main idea.

Mary Elizabeth Bowser and Elizabeth Van Lew were a spy team during the Civil War.

The men at the table talked in front of Mary as she served them dinner.

Mary Elizabeth Bowser, pretending to be a half-wit slave, served meals in the house of the Southern Army's leader.

## HOT Questions:

1. Why do you think Mary acted like a slave for the South's leader? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think Mary tried to seem like a half-wit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why might being a spy have been dangerous for Mary? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do you think Mary could have worked as a spy alone? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think Elizabeth wrote the news instead of Mary? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do you think Elizabeth wrote the letters in code? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do you think hiding the letters in an egg basket helped Elizabeth get them to the Northern soldiers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# 5

## Jimi Hendrix

Story from V/V Workbook, Book A, Grade 5

Jimi Hendrix was one of the first rock stars to truly experiment with the sound of an electric guitar. He ran his hand up and down the neck pressing the metal strings. The nimble fingers of his other hand danced over the strings, plucking and strumming them. Unlike the soft sound of most guitars, Jimi's sound was loud and fierce, echoing in the concert hall. As the crowd screamed and clapped, his unique music seemed to blaze forth like wildfire.



### Vocabulary to Visualize:

**experiment:** to test or try out

**electric guitar:** a stringed instrument that sends sound electronically through a speaker

**plucking:** quickly pulling and releasing the strings of a guitar with one's fingers

**strumming:** brushing the guitar strings in an up and down motion using one's fingers or a pick

**1 First Sentence:** Jimi Hendrix was one of the first rock stars to truly experiment with the sound of an electric guitar.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. Jimi Hendrix experimenting? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. a rock star? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. the electric guitar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Jimi experimenting with the sound? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2 Second Sentence:** He ran his brown hand up and down the neck pressing the metal strings.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. his hand? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. the neck of the guitar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. the strings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. him pressing the strings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3

**Third Sentence:** The nimble fingers of his other hand danced over the strings, plucking and strumming them.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. his nimble fingers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. his hand dancing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. him plucking the strings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. him strumming the strings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5

**Fifth Sentence:** As the crowd screamed and clapped, his unique music seemed to blaze forth like wildfire.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. the crowd? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. the crowd clapping and screaming? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. his music blazing like wildfire? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4

**Fourth Sentence:** Unlike the soft sound of most guitars, Jimi's sound was loud and fierce, echoing in the concert hall.

What did those words make you picture? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you picture for...

1. Jimi's sound? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. how loud it was? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. the concert hall? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. the sound echoing in the hall? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Picture Summary:**

Number your images in order.



Jimi's music echoed in the concert hall, sounding fierce and loud.



Jimi was one of the first rock musicians to experiment with an electric guitar.



His hands moved over the guitar, plucking and strumming the strings.



People screamed and clapped when they heard his unique music.

# Critical Thinking

## Write a Word Summary:

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## Main Idea:

Check the box that best describes all your images—the main idea.

- Jimi Hendrix played the guitar and his unique soft music filled the concert hall.
- Jimi Hendrix was one of the first rock stars to experiment with the electric guitar, making music crowds loved.
- Jimi Hendrix moved one hand up and down the neck of the guitar pressing the strings while strumming the strings with the other.

## HOT Questions:

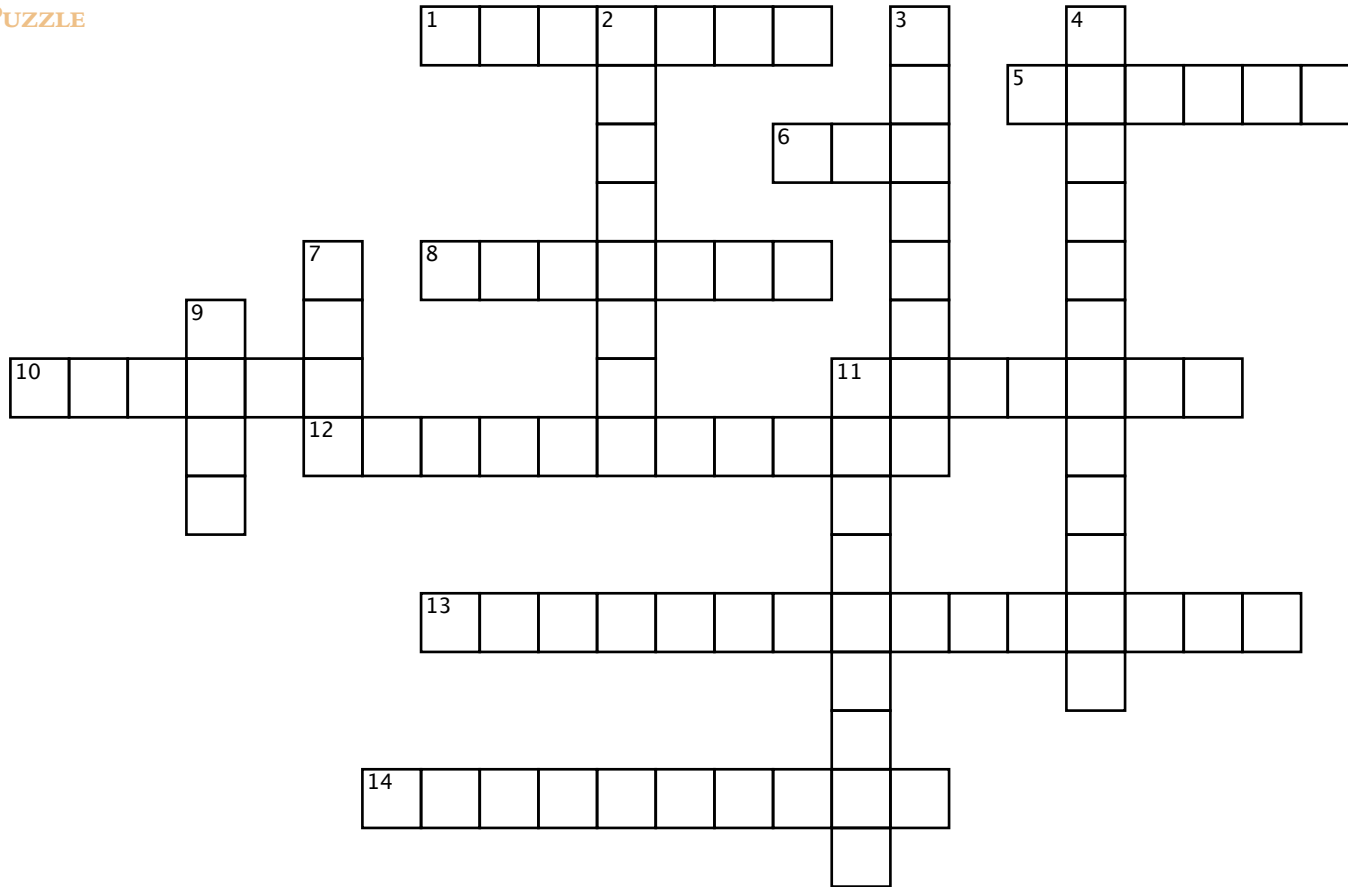
1. How do you think Jimi's playing was different than other musicians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think Jimi experimented with the sound of the guitar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think one hand ran up and down the neck of the guitar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do you think the sound was so loud? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think the crowd clapped and screamed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why do you think Jimi used an electric guitar and not a regular guitar? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_







## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### Across

1. a musical event or performance
5. a musical instrument with strings
6. a person who secretly gets and reports information about an enemy
8. a person who is trained or has natural talent in sports
10. prejudice or unfairness against people because of their race
11. the sights; nature; the view
12. the idea that every person is to be treated equally by the law
13. a monument in Washington, DC, known for a statue of President Lincoln
14. to test or try out

### Down

2. a war between the Northern and Southern states of the US, 1861-1865
3. a modern international sports competition held every four years
4. the highest court in the US
7. the state of being well-known, celebrity
9. money paid as punishment for wrongdoing
11. brushing a guitar's strings with one's hands

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE



athlete  
fame  
racism

Civil War  
fine  
scenery

concert  
guitar  
spy

equal rights  
Lincoln Memorial  
strumming

experiment  
Olympics  
Supreme Court

