Overview

The library is the heart of a community. In the segregated world of South Carolina in the 1950’s, only white people could have library cards. In 1959, nine-year old Ron jumped up on the counter insisting he be able to check out his books. By resolving this matter peacefully, he was able to learn how to pursue his dream of being a pilot.

Purpose

In this lesson students will learn about what libraries can offer a community and write an opinion piece as to why libraries should be available to all people.

Materials

- Book Ron’s Big Mission by Rose Blue and Corinne Naden.
- http://www.avondalelibrary.org/

Objectives

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the importance of local libraries and opine as to why regions should have them.

2. Discuss how Ron McNair contributed to equal rights for all citizens of the U.S. by retelling the plot of this book.

Procedures

1. Ask students if they have ever been to their local (city, county, or state) library.
Ron McNair: From Library Desegregationist to Astronaut

2. Discuss what they did there and if they participated in any activities. List these on the board.
3. Share Ron’s Big Mission with them.
4. Talk about how his demonstration in the library changed Ron’s life.
5. Go to your local library website and look at the services it offers.

Assessment

Mastery will be 80% or higher on the Ron’s Big Mission worksheet for a reading grade. Paragraph(s) will be graded for introduction, two reasons, and a conclusion. A score of 4 or higher on the 6 Traits Writing Rubric in the area of Organization will be considered mastery of the writing standard. Giving at least 1 reason why having a library card benefits the person or community will be considered mastery of the geography and civics objectives.

Extensions

Take a field trip to your local library. Find out what you need to get a library card.

Invite your local children’s librarian to your classroom and have them talk about library events and services.

Read Richard Wright and the Library Card and compare and contrast the two books.

Design a bookmark that includes what libraries can do for you!

Sources


Website from your local library that shows activities and services it provides.