



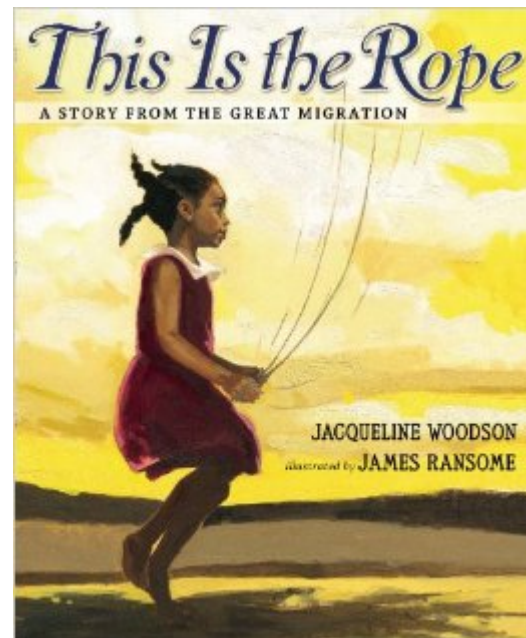
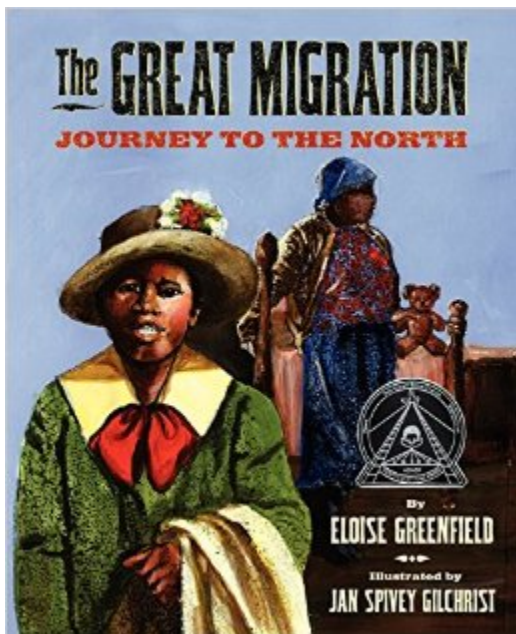
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Lesson Plan for Grade 1-4 Moving Out!

The Great Migration: Journey to the North
by Eloise Greenfield
&
This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration
by Jacqueline Woodson



Summary: *The Great Migration: Journey to the North* highlights the period of the 20th century when many African Americans left the South to make better lives for themselves in the northern states. So many African Americans took this trek northwards that it came to be known

as the "Great Migration." These poems gracefully depict the experiences of families who found the courage to leave their homes behind, face the unknown, and make a fresh start elsewhere.

Pre-Reading: The following should be done before reading *The Great Migration* to teach students about migrants and explore their background knowledge on the subject.

1. Begin the lesson by telling the students that they are going to be reading a story about a child who has migrated from North Carolina to Washington, DC. Ask students if they know what it means to migrate.
2. Tell students that migration means to move from one region or habitat to another, especially regularly according to the seasons, as certain birds, fishes, and animals: The birds **migrate** southward in the winter. The term can also be used to describe the movement of people.
3. Group Discussion Questions:
 - a. Why do people move?
 - b. How do you think people feel about leaving their home?
 - c. Is it different for kids?

Guided Reading: The following questions should be discussed while reading *The Great Migration: Journey to the North*

Examples of why people move and how it makes them feel

1. How does the Man feel about leaving?
2. Why are the boy and girl migrating North?
3. Why is the Woman happy to leave the South?
4. What does the Very Young Woman take with her?
5. How did people migrate to the North?

Post-Reading: The following activity will be completed after the teacher has finished reading *The Great Migration the Journey to the North*.

Summary:

This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration is the story of one family's journey north during the Great Migration. It begins with a little girl in South Carolina who finds a rope under a tree one summer. She has no idea the rope will become part of her family's history. But for three generations, that rope is passed down, used for everything from jump rope games to tying suitcases onto a car for the big move north to New York City, and even for a family reunion where that first little girl is now a grandmother.

Discussion: Ask students to think about what it must have felt like to have to move. What do they think the people in the book would miss the most?

Activity 1.

Moving Box Activity

1. Tell the students they will be moving to a new classroom (make sure they know this is a make believe activity)
2. They can bring a few things from their old classroom, but the items must fit in the box.
3. Allow them to fill the box.
4. Go through the box and ask the students why they chose those particular objects.
5. If they could only take one object as a class, what would it be?

Pre-Reading: The following should be done before reading *This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration* to teach students about family history, generations, and mementos and explore their background knowledge on the subject.

1. Begin the lesson by telling the students that they are going to be reading a story about a girl who has migrated from South Carolina to Brooklyn, New York. Ask students if they remember what it means to **migrate**, reinforcing their understanding of the concept.
2. Tell students that a **generation** is all of the people born and living at about the same time.
3. Give them examples:
 - a. The students, along with their brothers and sisters
 - b. their parents
 - c. their grandparents
4. Tell students that a memento is an object kept as a reminder or souvenir of a person or event.
5. Group Discussion Questions:
 - a. If they went to a basketball game what do they think they might take home as a memento?
 - b. Can their ticket be a memento?
 - c. Do mementos have to be expensive?
 - d. Do mementos mean something to the person who has one or to their friends? Like the basketball ticket, you went to the game and your friend did not. DO you think they would care as much about keeping your ticket as a memento?

Guided Reading: The following questions should be discussed while reading *This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration*

**This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration* is also available on YouTube by Weston Woods and Scholastic Audio <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjkO9b-W4iE>

1. Where did the girl's grandma skip the rope?
2. How did grandpa use the rope?
3. When grandma and grandpa were in their new home how did they use the rope?
4. How did mama use the rope to make friends?
5. What did mama use the rope for when she went to college?
6. Why did mama keep the rope on the piano?
7. What did mama, grandma and the girl all use the rope to do?
8. Why do you think mama grandma and the girl kept to rope for so long? What does it mean to them?

Post-Reading: The following activity will be completed after the teacher has finished reading *This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration*

Home Moving Box Activity

1. Ask the students, what kind of box is this? Are we pirates? Explain how objects, ideas, music, people can be considered treasures.
2. Ask the students what they treasure?
3. In the story, the author treasures a rope because it has been in her family for such a long time and with them through very important times in their lives. Ask the students if they have any family treasures, like the author's rope? Give an example from your own life as a prompt.
4. Ask students to draw the things they might take with them if they had to move from their home to a new city. Ask them to add their family treasure/memento to their box, if they have one.

