

Be a Guest of the Past

Lesson Title: Developing a Historic Character Role

Objective: TLW research, write, and role-play a fictitious early resident of Johnson County

Materials: identity cards, student questionnaire, student notebook

Introduction: Students will draw out of a bucket, one of the historic characters who might have attended the 1876 Coralville School in the 1870's. Teacher needs to allow for one boy bucket and one girl bucket. Teacher explains to students the information on the card: Child's name, parents' names and occupations, relative's occupation, child's age, background, terms in school. The students will be researching the occupations in another lesson, so a brief overview of the information is adequate. This is a time for the teacher to give an overview of the types of students who would typically have been in the school during the 1870's.

Note: You may wish to have students check the room for "siblings" who will be in school with them.

Student Activity: Students will read a selection of materials that will help develop background for the character they are portraying. Teachers may wish to ask media specialists to supplement the ethnic materials provided with the trunk.

Students will also complete the questionnaire in order to create a character. The readings and questionnaire are to be used by the student in the writing to give the character depth. Then they will draft and go to final copy with a written description of the person they will portray at the school. The final copy of this piece is to be written in the Student Notebook. Students may choose to share their written products.

Assessment: Final copy in Student Notebook.

****NOTE TO TEACHERS:** The activities at the school will be based on these historical character roles. The older students will receive the more difficult spelling and math lessons. Other teachers have suggested that you may want to be in charge of distributing the character cards, and give resource students the youngest character roles.