



America and the Civil Rights Movement

An Education Program using excerpts from the stage play *In the Heat of the Night*, and narrative lectures, for Middle School, High School and College level students

L.A. Theatre Works
Producing Director Susan Albert Loewenberg

Prepared by Elizabeth Bennett

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And Justice for All: America and the Civil Rights Movement Educational Program

L.A. Theatre Works offers an Education program that juxtaposes historical events and source material from the Civil Rights era with select scenes from Matt Pelfrey's stage adaptation of John Ball's groundbreaking 1965 novel *In the Heat of the Night*. The program brings to life the slow evolution in race relations that occurred during the volatile decade of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Kennedys, and of prejudice, segregation and integration. The presentation will begin with an introduction to the Civil Rights Movement during the mid-1960s and how it set the theme and tone of the play. Speeches by Civil Rights' leaders and political advocates as well as pro-segregation arguments will be punctuated by riveting scenes from the story- which pointedly mirror the real-life racism experienced by African-Americans of the time and their determination to stand up for their dignity and rights. America's larger social awakening to the civil rights struggle is traced throughout the presentation. This program and the play include language of the period.

Requirements:

Number of Participants: 50 minimum/no maximum

Age level of Participants: Middle School, High School, and/or College Students

Length of program: 60 minutes including post Q&A

Location: L.A. Theatre Works' performance venue

Suggested individuals, events, and topics to research and discuss before attending the performance

Martin Luther King, Jr.

John F. Kennedy

Robert Kennedy

Lyndon Johnson

George Wallace

16th Street Baptist Church Bombing

The Freedom Riders

The Civil Rights Act of 1964

Segregation

Integration

The Klu Klux Klan

ESSAY

Nearly 100 years after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, American society was still sharply segregated along color lines. African Americans—particularly those living in Southern states—still lived in an unequal world of disenfranchisement, segregation and oppression. Local “Jim Crow” laws prevented African Americans from sharing the schools, bathrooms, theaters, trains, and restaurants as whites enjoyed. African Americans throughout the country knew that facilities that were supposed to be “separate but equal” were far from equal.

By the 1950s, change was in the air. Thousands of African-American soldiers had fought to liberate Europe, and the freedom they had experienced overseas left them determined to fight discrimination and injustice when they returned home. Many whites as well as African Americans who had migrated north in search of a better life felt compelled to take action against the deep-seated prejudices preventing achievement of the American Dream. In 1954, when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the “separate but equal” doctrine that had been the basis for state-sanctioned discrimination since 1896, the nation’s attention was increasingly focused on the plight of African Americans. A year later, three shocking events galvanized not just activists but ordinary folks who were fed up with injustice. African-American teenager Emmett Till was murdered in Mississippi after allegedly flirting with a white woman -- and his mother published photos of his badly mutilated body so the world could see what had been done to her son. On December 1, Montgomery, Alabama seamstress and local NAACP secretary Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus for a white passenger. The subsequent boycott of Montgomery’s buses by African Americans prompted not just new legal regulations granting more equal rights but also brought about a heightened awareness of the power of non-violent protest and civil disobedience. These three incidents sparked more than a decade of turbulence, violence and hard-won change to achieve civil rights. Many leaders from within the African-American community rose to prominence during this era, risking their lives in order to achieve freedom and equality.

In 1965 – a year marked by rioting in Los Angeles, the assassination of Nation of Islam leader Malcolm X, and violence against peaceful protesters marching from Selma to Montgomery – journalist John Ball published a mystery novel that reflected the pulse of the nation in a way that few other books of the time did. *In the Heat of the Night* depicts the mistreatment and indignity suffered by African-American police detective Virgil Tibbs as the victim of racial profiling while traveling through a small Southern town. Under the guise of a murder mystery, Ball was able to tell the more subversive story of the clever, empathetic, and thoroughly professional Tibbs, who outsmarts the local police. By the novel’s end, even bigoted Chief Gillespie has to grudgingly overcome some of his deep-seated racism to acknowledge the professional and personal dignity of Tibbs.

In the Heat of the Night has become an award-winning classic since its publication and has spawned a full series of books about Detective Tibbs. Throughout all of the novels, Tibbs stands out as a model citizen who emphasizes the injustice of judging a man by the color of his skin rather than the content of his character. The 1967 film version starring Sidney Poitier won five Oscars, including Best Picture, and a series of the same name but focusing on a Gillespie-like character ran for seven seasons on television.

Although *In the Heat of the Night* was acclaimed as a novel of suspense and mystery, it was Ball's social criticism that won the work so much attention.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

1863: On January 1, President Abraham Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, granting freedom to African Americans living in slavery.

1870: On February 3, the 15th Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the federal and state governments from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

1896: In the case of **Plessy vs. Ferguson**, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the concept of “**separate but equal**” public facilities for different races. The ruling held that the state laws requiring racial segregation were constitutional.

1954: On May 17, the U.S. Supreme Court declares school segregation unconstitutional in **Brown v. Board of Education** of Topeka ruling. The ruling declares that separate public schools for African-American and white students denies equal educational opportunities to African-American children.

1955:

August: Fourteen-year old African American **Emmett Till** is murdered in Mississippi after reportedly flirting with a married white woman. From this point on, intense national scrutiny focused on the condition of civil rights in Mississippi.

December: On the 1st, African-American seamstress and local NAACP secretary Mrs. Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat for a white passenger and move to the back of a Montgomery, Alabama, bus as required by city ordinance. Her arrest prompts the organization of the **Montgomery bus boycott** by African Americans. The Federal Interstate Commerce Commission bans segregation on interstate trains and buses. The Montgomery bus boycott is often viewed as the start of the modern civil rights movement.

On December 5, local Baptist minister Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association and he becomes the official spokesman for the boycott.

1956: On November 13, the U.S. Supreme Court affirms that segregation on public buses is illegal. But human behavior was harder to regulate: frustration and anger continued to grow into violence.

1957: In September, Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus uses the National Guard to prevent nine African-American students from attending Little Rock High School. President Eisenhower sends federal troops in to ensure compliance.

Dr. King forms the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to fight segregation and achieve civil rights.

1960:

February 1: The **first lunch counter sit-in** is conducted by four African-American college students at a Woolworth's in Greensboro, NC because African-American patrons are refused service in the "white" section of the restaurant.

April: The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is formed in response to the sit-ins. SNCC will become a major organizer in the civil rights movement, and its major contribution will be the organization of voter registration drives throughout the South.

November: John F. Kennedy is elected the 35th President of the United States. His election was helped by the votes of African Americans who believed him to be sympathetic to the civil rights movement.

December: The U.S. Supreme Court rules that interstate buses and bus terminals are required to integrate.

1961: May 4: Freedom Rides begin from Washington, D.C., headed to New Orleans. The first was led by **CORE (Congress of Racial Equality)**; others led by SNCC. The riders test new laws prohibiting segregation in interstate travel facilities. The Riders are met with violence in Anniston, Birmingham and Montgomery, Alabama. More than 1,000 people volunteer with the effort.

1962:

September: James Meredith is blocked when he arrives on the campus of University of Mississippi as the first African-American student. President John F. Kennedy sends federal troops to the university to quell riots so that Meredith can attend safely.

October: Dr. King is arrested and jailed during anti-segregation protests in Birmingham, AL. While incarcerated, he writes "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," arguing that people have the moral duty to disobey laws that are unjust.

1963:

June 11: Alabama National Guardsmen called in to accompany two African-American students as they are admitted to the University of Alabama. Governor George Wallace personally tries to block their entrance. Later that night, President Kennedy gives his famous address to the nation, calling for a civil rights act.

June 12: The NAACP's Mississippi field secretary **Medgar Evers** is murdered outside his home by a sniper's bullet.

August 28: "**The March on Washington:**" Dr. King delivers his "**I Have a Dream**" speech to hundreds of thousands. Nation of Islam leader **Malcolm X** refers to the March as "the farce on Washington" and denounces the event.

September 15: A bomb explodes at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL, a center for civil rights meetings and marches. Four young African American girls attending Sunday school are killed.

November 22: President Kennedy is assassinated. Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson is sworn into office as the 36th President of the United States.

1964:

March: Malcolm X breaks off his relationship with the Nation of Islam. He founds his own organization, the Muslim Mosque.

June 21: During the “Freedom Summer” campaign to register African Americans to vote, three young activists are murdered near Philadelphia, MS by members of the Ku Klux Klan. Their murders spark national outrage and a massive federal investigation referred to by the FBI as “Mississippi Burning.”

July 2: After a 75-day long filibuster in Congress, the **Civil Rights Act** is passed and signed by President Johnson. It prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion or national origin and gives the federal government powers to enforce desegregation.

December 10: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

1965:

February 21: Malcolm X is assassinated by members of the Nation of Islam.

March 7: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference attempts to hold a march from Selma to Montgomery, AL in order to demand protection for voting rights. Approximately 525 marchers are violently assaulted by the state police outside Selma and the march is disbanded. Another attempt to march is blocked. The march is finally completed on March 25 after the marchers are escorted by the National Guard.

August 6: The **Voting Rights Act** outlawing discriminatory voting practices is signed by President Johnson. Congress intended the Act to outlaw the requirement of a literacy test in order to register to vote, which had been a means used by Southern states to prevent African Americans from registering.

August 11-16: Race riots break out in the **Watts** section of Los Angeles, leaving the area burned and looted. Thirty-four people are killed; 1,032 injured; and 3,952 arrested.

1967:

June 17: Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African-American judge to be named to the U.S. Supreme Court.

July: **Race riots in Detroit, Michigan and Newark, New Jersey** lead to looting and burning of the city’s downtown areas.

November: Carl Stokes (Cleveland) and Richard G. Hatcher (Gary, Indiana) are elected the first African-American mayors of major U.S. cities.

November 27: MLK and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference begin to plan the **Poor People's Campaign** to address issues of economic injustice for poor people of every minority. Dr. King calls it the "second phase" of the civil rights struggle.

1968:

January: MLK announces that the Poor People's Campaign will culminate in a March on Washington, the goal of which is achieving a \$12 billion Economic Bill of Rights guaranteeing employment to those who can work, incomes to people unable to work, and an end to housing discrimination.

February: A commission investigating the causes of the Detroit race riots during the previous year issues a public report of its findings. The **Kerner Commission** provides the assessment that "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white – separate and unequal...What white Americans have never fully understood -- but what the Negro can never forget -- is that...white institutions created [the ghetto], white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

March 18: Robert F. Kennedy announces his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

April 3: Dr. King delivers his "**I've Been to the Mountaintop**" sermon in Memphis, TN.

April 4: Dr. King is assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. His death sets off riots in more than 100 cities across the United States.

May: Approximately 50,000 people participate in the **Poor People's March** on Washington, which had been planned by Dr. King before his death.

June 5: Presidential candidate Robert Kennedy –who gave hope for the improvement of race relations and poverty conditions--is shot just after winning the California presidential primary. He dies a day later.

November: Richard M. Nixon is elected the 37th President of the United States.

PROFILES IN COURAGE AND HISTORY:
THOSE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

President John F. Kennedy (1917-1963): During his 1960 bid for the presidency, Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy reached out to African-American voters, who were traditionally marginalized or ignored by presidential candidates. Learning of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's imprisonment for leading a non-violent civil rights protest, Senator Kennedy offered sympathy to King's frightened family and it is believed that the senator's brother Robert played an instrumental role in King's release from jail. As a result, many African American voters, who had voted Republican for almost a century, shifted their support to Kennedy, the Democratic candidate. The African-American vote helped to elect Kennedy as the 35th president and the role that African Americans played in making that win possible gave great hope that equality might be achieved during the Kennedy administration.

But once in office, Kennedy was slow to support the civil rights movement. Not until the televised violence against the Freedom Riders (1961) and attempts to prevent James Meredith from integrating the University of Mississippi (1962) did Kennedy and his cabinet become involved. In June 1963, Kennedy delivered his first address focusing on civil rights, one that introduced the first sweeping legislation on the subject since the 1860s. President Kennedy was working to craft a Civil Rights bill when he was assassinated in November 1963; this bill was brought to passage by his successor Lyndon Johnson in July 1964.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968): The son of a Baptist minister, Martin Luther King, Jr. rose to national attention when he helped lead the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott in December 1955, an act that many cite as the start of the modern civil rights movement. Dr. King was committed to non-violent protest as the means to bring about civil rights and social change. He held as his ideal the vision of an interracial democracy and part of that vision included a fight against economic inequality. This led him to organize the “March on Washington” in August 1963 which culminated in his famous “I Have a Dream” speech to 250,000 people gathered on the national mall.

In 1957, Dr. King was elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization formed to support and provide leadership for the now burgeoning civil rights movement. From this point until his death in 1968, Dr. King worked endlessly, traveling over six million miles, making over 2,500 public speeches, and suffering more than 20 arrests. He was the author of five books and many essays, including the manifesto “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” In 1964, when Dr. King was 35 years old, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He did not keep the prize money’s award of \$54,123, instead turning it over to help advance civil rights.

Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, TN, which he was visiting to lead a protest march in sympathy with the city’s striking sanitation workers.

Rosa Parks (1913-2005): On December 1, 1955, Mrs. Rosa Parks—a 43-year old civil rights activist who also worked as a seamstress--refused to give up her seat for a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. In accordance with the state’s “Jim Crow” segregation laws, Mrs. Parks was arrested. Her actions set off a citywide bus boycott organized by NAACP and Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters during which the African-American workers of Montgomery disrupted the city for 381 days until the Supreme Court struck down the bus segregation law.

Fired from her job and unable to find work because employers feared she would attract attention or agitate the workplace, Mrs. Parks moved to Detroit and eventually found work with a Michigan Congressman. Mrs. Parks is often referred to as “the mother of the civil rights movement.” After her death in 2005, she was the first woman to lie in state in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

The Little Rock Nine: By 1957, Brown vs. Board of Education had outlawed segregation in public schools but many students—particularly those in Southern school systems—were intimidated or threatened by fellow students and sometimes teachers and school administrators. The continuance of the practice of segregation was challenged at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas at the start of the school year in 1957 when a group of nine African-American teenagers persevered in enrolling and attending the all-white school.

The students, who became known as “The Little Rock Nine,” were backed by the local NAACP. On the first day of school, Arkansas’s governor ordered officers from the state’s National Guard to prevent the African-American students from entering the school. The mayor of Little Rock enlisted the help of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to enforce the Supreme Court ruling mandating integration. After 20 days of violence and intimidation, the students were escorted into Central High School with the protection of the U.S. Army.

The victory marked a major milestone. But The Little Rock Nine continued to be bullied inside the school and not all of them chose to stay at Central High School; only three graduated from that school. The crisis also prompted Arkansas Governor Faubus to enact legislation empowering him to delay desegregation and shut down all four of Arkansas’s public schools and re-open them as private schools.

President Lyndon Baines Johnson (1908-1973): After decades in the Senate and House of Representatives, Lyndon Johnson served as John F. Kennedy’s Vice President from 1960-1963 and then as the 36th President from 1963-1968 – some of the most turbulent years in American history. The “Great Society” that he envisioned as president included equal rights as well as aid for education, the arts, health care, urban renewal and the fight against poverty. Although some scholars believe Johnson merely pushed through legislation begun by President Kennedy, Johnson made possible the most significant civil rights bills enacted by any president since Lincoln. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited racial discrimination in employment and education, and outlawed segregation in public places such as schools and parks. In 1965, he achieved passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed discrimination in voting and enabled millions of African Americans to cast ballots for the first time. His Civil Rights Act of 1968 mandated equal housing opportunities for all, regardless of race.

Freedom Riders: The 1960 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Boynton v. Virginia* outlawed segregation on public buses and in the restaurants and terminal waiting rooms that served buses crossing state lines. But the new rules were largely not enforced in the Southern States and “Jim Crow” practices upholding segregation remained in effect. The Freedom Riders, a group of civil rights activists, challenged segregation by organizing groups of white and African-American activists to ride interstate buses together in the South. Doing so called national attention to the disregard for the federal law.

The first bus of Freedom Riders left Washington, D.C. on May 4, 1961 and was scheduled to arrive on May 17 in New Orleans. However, along the way, police arrested the riders for trespassing, “unlawful assembly,” and violating local laws. The riders encountered horrible violence as they were attacked (without police intervention) by mobs carrying baseball bats and metal pipes. Outside Birmingham, AL, a bus was firebombed.

The extreme violence and absence of police action prompted a huge outpouring of sympathy for the riders, and activist groups organized more Freedom Rides and arranged for substitutes to take the places of riders as they became injured or chose to leave the buses. President Kennedy and his administration attempted to intervene but were able only to cut a deal with the governors of Alabama and Mississippi. By November 1961, the Interstate Commerce Commission put new rules into effect,

allowing passengers to sit wherever they wanted on interstate buses and trains and enforcing the removal of signs for segregated facilities in terminals.

QUOTES

“Racism is a refuge for the ignorant. It seeks to divide and to destroy. It is the enemy of freedom, and deserves to be met head-on and stamped out.” – Pierre Berton

“The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, and whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated. If an American, because his skin is dark, cannot eat lunch at an American restaurant open to the public, if he cannot send his children to the best public school available. If he cannot vote for the public officials who represent him, if in short he cannot enjoy the full and free life which all of us want, then who among us would be content to have his skin changed and stand in his place? Who among us would then be content with the consuls of patience and delay? One hundred years of delay have passed since President Lincoln freed the slaves, yet their heirs, their grandsons, are not fully free. They are not yet free from the bonds of injustice, they are not yet free from social and economic oppression. And this nation for all its hopes and all its boasts will not be fully free until all its citizens are free.” – President John F. Kennedy

“The time of justice has now come, and I tell you that I believe sincerely that no force can hold it back. It is right in the eyes of man and God that it should come, and when it does, I think that day will brighten the lives of every American. For Negroes are not the only victims. How many white children have gone uneducated? How many white families have lived in stark poverty? How many white lives have been scarred by fear, because we wasted energy and our substance to maintain the barriers of hatred and terror?... There is no Negro problem. There is no Southern problem. There is no Northern problem. There is only an American problem.” – President Lyndon B. Johnson

“Each person must live their life as a model for others.” – Rosa Parks

“Stand for something or you will fall for anything. Today's mighty oak is yesterday's nut that held its ground.” – Rosa Parks

“...There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression. There comes a time my friends when people get tired of being flung across the abyss of humiliation where they experience the bleakness of nagging despair. There comes a time when people get tired of being pushed out of the glittering sunlight of life's July and left standing amidst the piercing chill of an Alpine November.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence and lawlessness, but is love, and wisdom, and

compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black.” — Robert Kennedy

“...In the unlikely story that is America, there has never been anything false about hope. For when we have faced down impossible odds; when we've been told that we're not ready, or that we shouldn't try, or that we can't, generations of Americans have responded with a simple creed that sums up the spirit of a people. Yes we can. It was a creed written into the founding documents that declared the destiny of a nation. Yes we can. It was whispered by slaves and abolitionists as they blazed a trail toward freedom through the darkest of nights. Yes we can. It was sung by immigrants as they struck out from distant shores and pioneers who pushed westward against an unforgiving wilderness. Yes we can. It was the call of workers who organized; women who reached for the ballot; a President who chose the moon as our new frontier; and a King who took us to the mountaintop and pointed the way to the Promised Land. Yes we can to justice and equality. Yes we can to opportunity and prosperity. Yes we can heal this nation. Yes we can repair this world. Yes we can.” – Barack Obama

For Further Thought And Discussion

(To Be Led by Teachers in the Classroom Post-Performance)

Ask your students what they consider their most important civil right to be. Have they ever experienced a violation of this right? If so, how did they react: did they take action, get upset, let it go, talk to someone about it? What would they do if that right were violated or taken away from them now?

Ask your students to write down their definitions of prejudice, racism and discrimination, and provide an example of each definition.

Have your students experienced racism? Discrimination?

Who are the heroes that your students see as making the world a better place? It could be their parents or a family member. Is it someone from their neighborhood? A politician? An athlete or a musician? A spiritual leader? A teacher or social worker?

Give your students the Wole Soyinka poem “Telephone Conversation.” Ask them to read it aloud. Discuss the characters in the poem and their points of view – and what the possible outcomes of the conversation are.

Summarize for the students the recent Trayvon Martin case or ask them what they remember of it. Did this case impact them? What do they remember of the media coverage?

What do your students think of non-violent resistance? Discuss the actions of Dr. King and Gandhi with them. Do the students think that non-violent resistance was an effective means of bringing about change for these leaders?

Play a recording of Billie Holiday’s “Strange Fruit” or provide your students with the lyrics. What do they think of the images in the lyrics? What impression do they get from Ms. Holiday’s voice in the recording? The song was written and recorded in 1939. Is it still relevant now?

Ask your students to choose well-known speeches about civil rights violations around the world. Provide them with an essay assignment or an oral report discussing the speech and why they chose that particular speech or the speaker.

RESOURCES FOR FURTHER THOUGHT

Video

Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have Been to the Mountaintop” speech: (43 minutes, 14 seconds)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDl84vusXos>

This speech—given in support of striking sanitation workers in Memphis, TN--was the last that King gave publicly. His warnings of a “storm warning” that something was happening “in Memphis and in our world” now seem an ominous warning of his own death, which occurred the next day.

Film Clips from the March on Washington and a full recording of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivering his famous “I Have a Dream” speech: (17 minutes, 28 seconds)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZwmoVYEwV4>

“Segregation At All Costs:” A short (10 minutes, 18 seconds) documentary spotlighting the opposition between the violent tactics used by Southern law enforcement in order to maintain segregation and the non-violent approach embraced by many in the civil rights movement. The documentary particularly focuses on Bull Connor, the Birmingham, AL Commissioner of Public Safety whose actions made Birmingham known as the most confrontational city of the civil rights movement and made him a well-known symbol of racism.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9kT1yO4MGg>

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962), screenplay by Horton Foote based on a novel by Harper Lee, directed by Robert Mulligan.

Lee Daniels’ The Butler (2013), written by Danny Strong and Wil Haygood, directed by Lee Daniels.

In the Heat of the Night (1967), written by Sterling Silliphant based on a novel by John Ball, directed by Norman Jewison.

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman (1974), written by Tracy Keenan Wynn based on a book by Ernest Gaines, directed by John Korty.

Crisis: Behind a Presidential Commitment. This ABC documentary made in 1963 follows President John F. Kennedy and his cabinet as they navigate the conflicts with Alabama Governor George Wallace during the crisis of integration the University of Alabama. (Available through Netflix.)

Hairspray (2007), screenplay by Leslie Dixon based on earlier screenplay written by John Waters and stage play written by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, directed by Adam Shankman.

Mississippi Burning (1988), written by Chris Gerolmo and directed by Alan Parker.

Malcolm X (1992), written by Spike Lee and Arnold Pearl based on a book by Alex Haley and Malcolm X, directed by Spike Lee.

Digital Resources

Eyes on the Prize: This award-winning public television documentary series first aired in 1987 and continues to be a classic teaching tool today. The series features interviews and historical footage to tell the story of the major events in the modern civil rights movement from 1954-1985.

PBS has maintained the website created to support the documentary. It has many great resources, including interviews, essays, and links to primary sources.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/eyesontheprize/>

The Library of Congress has an array of resources on the civil rights movement and a special website devoted to materials for teachers:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/themes/civil-rights/>

The Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN was the site of Dr. King's assassination and is now the home of the National Civil Rights Museum. The museum's website offers resources for teachers, including curriculum guides. <http://civilrightsmuseum.org/>

Books

A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Edited by James M. Washington (2003)

Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963; Pillar of Fire: America in the King Years, 1963-65; and At Canaan's Edge: America in the King Years, 1965-1968 by Taylor Branch.

The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks by Jeanne Theoharis (2013)

The Color Purple by Alice Walker.

Push by Sapphire.

Music

Classic Protest Songs: Smithsonian Folkways (2009)

"We Shall Overcome" (traditional)

"Oh Freedom" sung by Odetta

"I've Been 'Buked and I've Been Scorned" sung by Mahalia Jackson

"War" and "Get Up Stand Up" by Bob Marley

"Revolution" by Lennon and McCartney

"Black or White" by Michael Jackson

"In the Name of Love" by U2

"Fight the Power" by Public Enemy

"Inner City Blues" by Marvin Gaye

"Hurricane" by Bob Dylan

"somewhereinamerica" by Jay Z

"White Privilege" by Macklemore

"I'm Black and I'm Proud" by James Brown