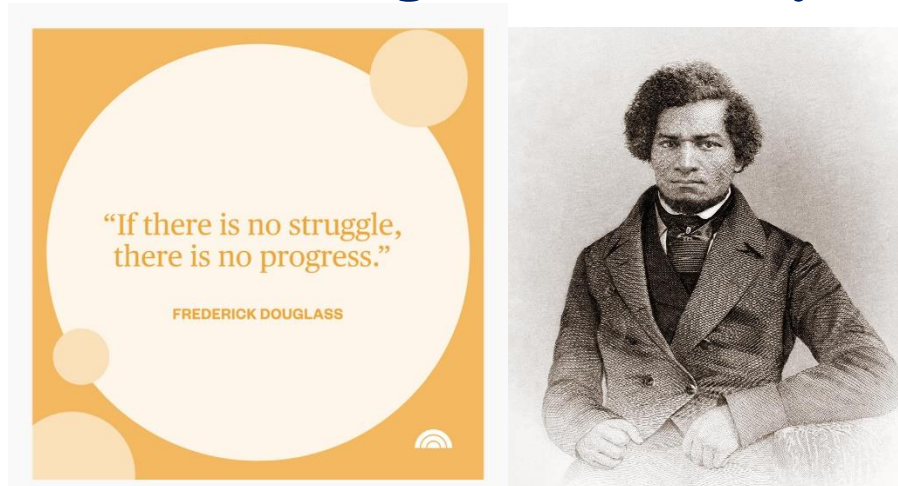




## Celebrating Black History



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Please don't forget to log your volunteer mentor session in the volunteer system. Using the google browser go to <https://focus.pcsb.org/volunteer>



**Question and Theme for the week:** How are you feeling?

Alvin Ailey, Dance  
Choreographer



**Discussion Question: How can a dance show celebrate a community?**

Students will see a historical work choreographed by Alvin Ailey and performed by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. - Students will practice talking about dance as audience members. - Students will understand how dance can portray and celebrate community.

**Introduction to the activity:**

Share information with your students about Alvin Ailey and Revelations. Below are some information and a short vocabulary list to help you. Throughout Alvin Ailey's childhood and into the 1950s, segregation was still legal in many areas of the United States of America. There were strict social codes and laws regarding how people of different races interacted. In New York theaters, white audience members sat downstairs, while black audience members sat in the balcony. Alvin Ailey was born during the time of segregation, in 1931, in Rogers, Texas. He moved to Los Angeles, California when he was 12 years old. In L.A, he discovered concert dance and met Lester Horton, who is credited with founding the first interracial dance company in the country. Ailey studied, performed with, and choreographed for the Lester Horton Dance Theater. Later, he performed in New York, where he flourished as a dancer, captivating audiences on Broadway stages and studying with dance pioneers, like Martha Graham. While he enjoyed some success, he also felt the limits of what a Black man in the U.S. could do. He noticed that the modern and ballet dance companies featured white people. He imagined a company of Black and brown people, performing the balletic movement vocabulary of modern dance, for large audiences, white and Black alike. He set out to create a company and choreography that white audiences would like so much that they would accept the dancers' brown skin on stage. Ailey reached into his own personal history to make Revelations, which premiered in 1960 at the 92nd Street YM-YWHM in New York City. He often talked about his "blood memories," memories of his time in Texas as a little boy, when his family regularly attended church. He described the men and women who attended church dressed in their Sunday best. The church played an important role in the community as a place to gather each week, see and be seen. Churchgoers devoutly sat through the services in the Southern summertime heat. Ailey's memories of the church inspired Revelations. According to performers' tales, the dance was so popular, that after the premiere, the audience was silent at first. The dancers feared that there would be no applause. After a moment, the house erupted. The audience loved it! Revelations became an instant classic and is still one of the most widely-seen concert dances in the U.S. today.

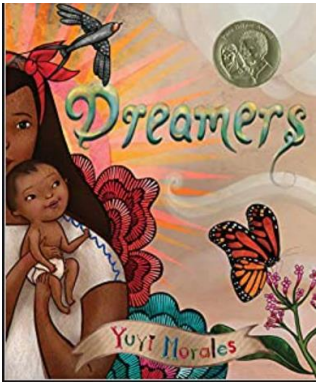
Watch the video: <http://pressroom.alvinailey.org/file/alvin-aley-s-revelations-rocka-my-soul?action=>

**Discuss the following Questions:**

- How do you feel after watching the dancers?
- The dancers did lots of movements. What did you see?
- Does the dance remind you of a person or a place?

**Question of the week:**

How are you feeling? What is your favorite thing about school?

**Theme: Dreamers**

Listen to the read aloud story: “Dreamers” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1LtQ28Dbv7A>  
As you read, discuss who dreamers are. Children who were brought to the United States by their parents. Also talk about the symbolism of the butterflies in the illustrations. Butterflies migrate to the United States from Mexico. Their offspring travel back to Mexico and their offspring travel back to the United States! It is an ongoing cycle that continues to happen every year.

**As you read stop and discuss these questions...**

- ” Why do you think Yuyi decided to leave with her daughter when she crossed the border?”
- “If Yuyi had left her daughter in Mexico do you think her life may have been different? How so”?
- “What kinds of things can we discover in a library”?

**Activity 1:**

You can use the whiteboard in Zoom for this activity.

Activity #1: Using words describe how the library helped Yuyi and her family learn and become adjusted to being in the United States.

**Activity 2:**

What words best describe the dreams you have for your own life.

**Question of the Week:**

Describe the hardest thing you ever had to do this school year?

**Theme: Social Justice**

Listen to the story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AcTYfSRNmoc>

**Discuss the following:**

When the author says, “my skin is just a covering it does not tell my story”, she wanted us to understand that our skin is made to protect us. It helps to keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Skin also comes in many different colors and sizes, just like sweaters and other coverings. The second thing the author said on this page is, “it cannot tell my story”, The color of our skin doesn’t tell everything about who we are. The only way to really learn a person’s story is by talking to them and by getting to know who they are on the inside.

**Guiding Questions:**

- What does the word identity mean?
- What do you think the author meant when she said, “It will let you know one small way to trace my identity.”?

**Question of the week?**  
How are you feeling?

**Weekly theme: What are Peaceful Actions?**



The students will learn about diverse leaders in order to further understand the character education trait of “peace.”

1. Introduce the word “peace” with the definition and quote provided.
2. Explain: we have many significant leaders and their peaceful actions positively impacted our society. Some of them are more common names than others.

**Today we are going to learn about peaceful people.**

**Fannie Lou Hamer:**

<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/fannie-lou-hamer>

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/freedomsummerhamer/>

<https://time.com/5692775/fannie-lou-hamer/>

**Charles Hamilton Houston:**

<https://www.naACP.org/naACP-history-charles-hamilton-houston/>

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/brown/history/3-organized/charleshouston.html>

<http://blackhistorynow.com/charles-hamilton-houston/>

**Hiram Revels:**

<https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/senate-stories/First-AfricanAmerican-Senator.htm>

**Peace** is a stress-free state of security and calmness that comes when there's no fighting or war, everything coexisting in perfect harmony and freedom.

Start with the first question: What excites you about going to school?

Theme: Self Love



## For Male Students

**Book: “Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut”**

This story highlights a boy’s transformative trip to the barbershop. It freshens up a young boy’s look and make him look like a king.

**Watch and Listen to the Story, “[Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut](#)”**

**After Discussion:**

- What’s your favorite part or least favorite part about going to the barber shop?
- How do you feel after you get a fresh hair cut?
- What’s one thing you can relate to from the story?

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## For Female Students

**Book: “I Love My Hair”**

Buns. Afros. Braids. Any way you wear it, the hair you were born with is naturally beautiful-and uniquely amazing.

**Watch and Listen to the Story, “[I Love my Hair](#)”**

**After Discussion:**

- What do you love the most about your hair?
- What else do you love about yourself?
- What’s one thing you can relate to from the story?

**Question of the week:**

How are you feeling?

[Feelings chart](#)

**Theme: Words of Wisdom**



**Words of Wisdom**

Share the following quotes with your mentee, then discuss the question? Share your thoughts with your mentee also. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers.

***Words of Wisdom***

"Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend."

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -

Why do you think it is important to be kind to everyone, even people who do not like you?

***Words of Wisdom***

"Each person must live their life as a model for others."

- Rosa Parks -

Who is someone you consider to be a *role model*?  
Give some reasons why you look up to them.

***Words of Wisdom***

"Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

- Dr. Mae Jemison -

What do you want to be when you grow up?

***Words of Wisdom***

"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.

We are the ones we've been waiting for.

We are the change that we seek."

- Barack Obama -

Would you want to be President of the United States?  
Why or why not?