

Secret in the Quilts

GRADE (S)	Intermediate
GOALS	<p>Students will be able to describe some of the quilt patterns and their meanings used in the Underground Railroad.</p> <p>Students will create their own patterns and codes that could have been used to help slaves escape through the Underground Railroad.</p> <p>Students will present their drawings to the class and explain their meanings.</p>
ESSENTIAL QUESTION	What do your patterns and codes mean? How would a slave use them to help them escape?
STANDARD (S)	<p>ELA Standards 1, 2, 3, and 4.</p> <p>Library Standards 1,2</p> <p>Social Studies Standards 1</p>
MATERIALS	<p><i>The Patchwork Path: A Quilt Map to Freedom</i> by Bettye Stroud</p> <p>11 by 14 poster paper for each student</p> <p>Drawing/Coloring Supplies</p> <p>Teacher created patterns and codes on a poster board</p>
DESCRIPTION	<p>Begin lesson by having students recall past knowledge of the Underground Railroad.</p> <p>Show cover of book. Explain that many people believe that slaves used patterns in quilts as codes to assist them in their journey on the Underground Railroad. Explain that the story you are about to read is a fictional account of a dangerous journey many slaves traveled to freedom.</p> <p>Read story, stopping as necessary to examine quilt patterns and codes and to discuss their role in the action in the story.</p> <p>After reading, ask students to share something they learned about the Underground Railroad from the story. Next ask them to recall/describe the quilt patterns and their meaning. Ask which was their favorite and the reason for their choice.</p> <p>Next, instruct students that they are going to create two quilt patterns for slaves to use to escape and make up a code or symbol for the patterns. They need to think about what a slave would need to know. Also, they need to remember that the slaves couldn't read so all</p>

	<p>patterns must be a design or picture of some kind. Teacher will model the assignment by showing their poster board and explain the patterns and codes.</p> <p>Hand out 11 by 14 paper and drawing and coloring supplies. Circulate around the room having students explain their work to ensure understanding of the assignment.</p> <p>After students have completed their patterns, allow them to present their pictures to the class and explain the codes for their drawings.</p>
DIFFERENTIATION	<p>Other books that can be used: <i>Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt</i> by Hopkins <i>The Secret to Freedom</i> by Vaughan</p>
ASSESSMENT	<p>Students will create two quilt patterns and be able to describe the pattern and the code in them and how they could be used to assist a slave in escaping on the Underground Railroad.</p>