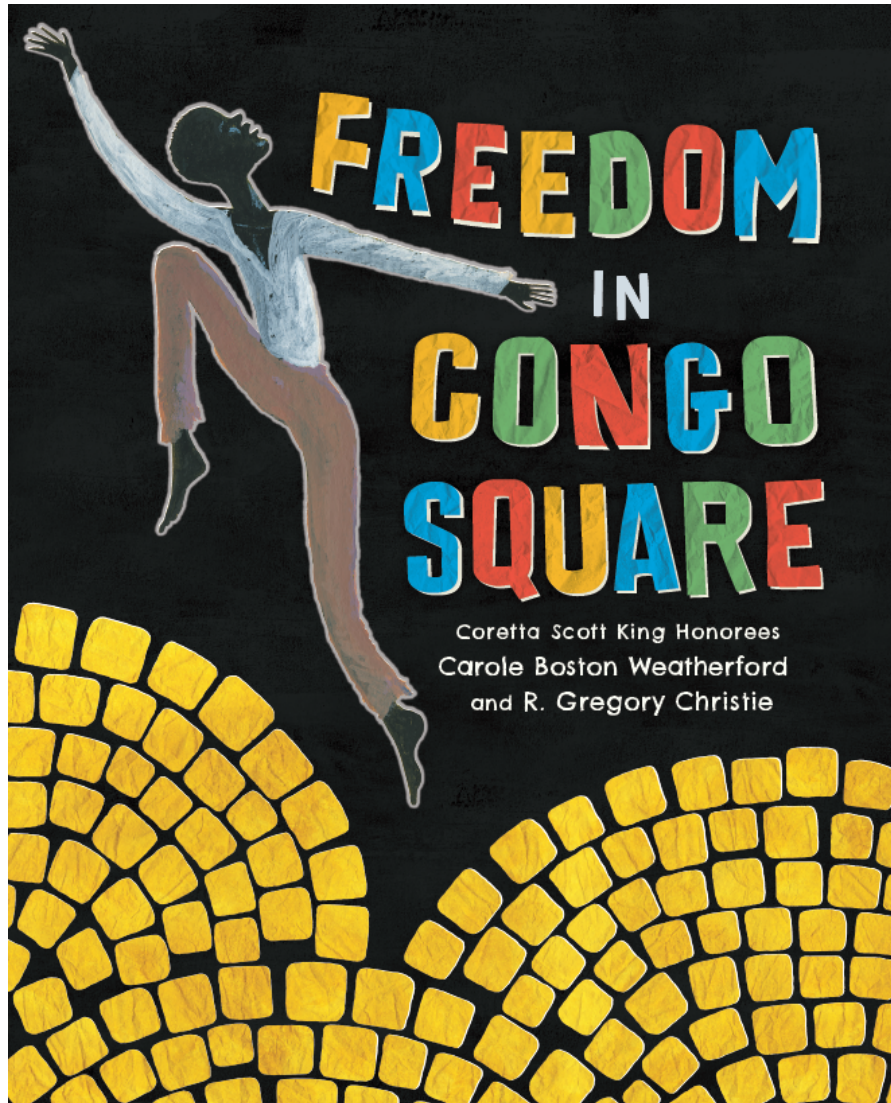


Freedom in Congo Square

Discussion Guide



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1. How does the “foreword” of a story help you better understand what the story will be about? **RI.3.1,2,3**
2. Summarize the foreword. **RI.3.2,3/ W.3.2**
3. Why do you think the “foreword” of *Freedom in Congo Square* was written by Freddi Williams Evans? Complete a web quest on her. Use information to determine how her point of view contributes to the authenticity of the text. **RI.3.1/ W.3.7,8**
4. Why is it important to reflect on the theme of a piece of literature? **SL.3.1**
5. How do the author and illustrator express the theme? **RL.2,4**
6. What can the theme teach you about the past, present and future? Connect ideas from the story to historical events. **RL.3.2/ RI.3.1,2,3/W.3.7,8/SL.3.1,4,6**
7. How does Carole Boston Weatherford structure the text (style)? Describe how each successive part builds on earlier sections. Why is the structure important to understanding the central idea of *Freedom in Congo Square*? **RL.3.5**
8. How do the illustrations enhance the meaning and tone of the poem? Explain how the illustrations emphasize aspects of the setting and characters and create mood. **RL.3.7**
9. How do words and phrases from *Freedom in Congo Square* impact the meaning of the story? **RL.3.4**
10. Create a list of challenging words from the story. Explain the strategies you used to figure out unknown words and phrases. (Picture and context clues, glossary) **L.3.4**
11. What is a multiple meaning word? Go back to the poem. Write the meaning of each word as it is used in the poem. Find other words from the book that have multiple meanings. **Bear, prune, train, fair, rare, free, heart, roots, charm.**
12. What poetic devices does the author use? Find examples from the book. **L.4.5**
13. Find rhyming words from the poem. **RF.3.3**
14. What do the following phrases mean from the poem? “Plantation slept,” “freedom’s heart,” “Spirituals rose from despair.” **L.3.5**
15. How does identifying the author’s purpose help to learn new information? Why do you think Carole Boston Weatherford wrote this book? Visit www.Readingrockets.org to view an interview with the author. How does her background influence her writing? **RL.3.6/ SL.3.1**
16. What is a firsthand and secondhand account? Research a firsthand account of Congo Square. Describe the primary sources and compare and contrast the difference in focus on the information. **RI.3.9/ W.3.7,8**
17. Create a list of instruments found in the story. Choose an instrument from the poem to research and write about. Present to the class. **RL.3.1/ W.3.2,7,8/SL.4,6**
18. In small groups, create an engaging audio recording of *Freedom in Congo Square* demonstrating fluid reading at an understandable pace. Add visual displays to emphasize or enhance certain facts or details. **SL.3.5**