

High School: Virginia and US History

Historical fiction:

- *The Jungle*, Upton Sinclair -- particularly useful with 11th graders when English teacher assigns it. Also could be useful in excerpted form in a specially edited for school use book. See particularly chapter 14.
- *The Killer Angels*, by Michael Shaara, The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about the Battle of Gettysburg.

History books:

- *A People's History of the United States: 1492–Present*, by Howard Zinn. Clear point of view taken here, effective to use selected chapters with students to stimulate discussion and send students into evidence to support or oppose thesis.
- *Putting the Movement Back Into Civil Rights Teaching: A Resource Guide for K-12 Classrooms*. Book is a collection of lessons, readings, photographs, primary source documents, and interviews, to help students go beyond the “heroes approach.”

Videos:

- *Eyes on the Prize* video series: NOTE – big copyright problem recently limiting its availability. Consider *The Eyes on the Prize Civil Rights Reader*, a collection of original documents, speeches and firsthand of the black struggle for freedom from 1954 to 1990.
- *The Patriot*: The debate in the S.C. statehouse sums up the SOL perfectly! I also who the battle scene that Mel and Heath Ledger see from the house. Warning- watch out for the decapitating cannon ball!
- *Gettysburg*: Yes, a 3 hour long film, but I use the scene in the woods before Picketts Charge and the charge itself. It pretty much sums up the whole war in thirty minutes.
- *Far and Away*: Hollywood's version of late 19th century immigration and western settlement. The scene were Tom and Nicole first arrive in Boston and the climactic Oklahoma Land Rush are straight out of the SOL.
- *Unchained Memories: Readings From the Slave Narratives*, video (an HBO documentary film in association with the Library of Congress). Based on more than 2000 Federal Writers Project interviews.
- *Glory*, Video/DVD. The 1989 film on the Civil War's first black fighting regiment, the 54th Massachusetts.
- *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice*, video that documents the dramatic life and turbulent times of Wells, a pioneering journalist, activist, suffragist and anti-lynching crusader of the post-Reconstruction period, narrated by Toni Morrison.

These units are part of a Teaching American History Grant program that is a three-year partnership of Clarke, Culpeper, Fauquier, Frederick, Manassas City, Orange, and Winchester school districts and George Mason University's Center for History and New Media and Department of History and Art History. It is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

- *Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam*. Video documentary on the war experience through the letters of American soldiers, also news footage, home movies, and rock music score.

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