

Teacher's Guide:
Well, My Teacher Said
by Mchelle Bodden
Illustrated by Brittney Williams

About the book:

Well, My Teacher Said is filled with quotes from our greatest teachers including Ossie Davis, Malcolm X, Zora Neale Hurston and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Use their wonderful words to learn lessons for life—here is guidance from the past to make a better future.

About the author:

Michelle Bodden is more than 18 and delighted to work on this project. A former New York City public school teacher, she has been dedicated to education for her entire career. As the founder of Water Daughter Publishing, her goal is to present materials that uplift the richness of African Diaspora culture. Water Daughter's work is geared toward helping children and adults deepen their pride in their heritage and to use that wellspring to spur them forward. Michelle is also the author of Obara the Gatekeeper and Obara and the Merchants, which won honorable mention in the 2005 Writer's Digest Self Published Book Awards. All of the books are available at www.waterdaughter.com

About the illustrator:

Brittney Williams is 18 years old and resides in Newark, NJ. She will be attending Howard University in the fall of 2006. Art has always played an important role in Brittney's young life, and she has won numerous awards including several state and national honors. Her success can be greatly attributed to the guidance and inspiration of her high school art teachers, Michael Gallagher and Zach Lytle. An aspiring photojournalist, Brittney uses her artwork to better herself and her community. She believes in the possibility of a better future and thus hopes to be an active participant in her generation's improvement of it.

Author Interview:

1. What is the best part of being an author?
Having children read my books is the best! I love answering their letters and emails.
2. What do you think reading and stories do for young people?
I think they open up whole new worlds, with ideas that can really spark the imagination. Nonfiction books also have the special ability to make reality fascinating (MUCH better than reality shows on TV!)
3. What was your favorite book when you were a child?
I learned to read with Dick and Jane, so they will always hold a special place in my heart, but my very favorite book was One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish by Dr. Seuss.

Pre-reading:

Do you know what famous quotes are? Why do you think some people collect them? Who would you look to find words to inspire you?

1. Read James Baldwin's quote. How would you like to change the world before you leave it? What do you think is the most important things to do?
2. What do you think Harriet Tubman's quote means? How did she free people?
3. What is your "secret cup of gladness?"
4. What does George Washington Carver believe can teach more about nature than books? Do you agree with him?
5. What important things did Carver teach farmers?
6. How does your mind make everything else work? What is your mind particularly good at?
7. According to Duke Ellington how can a problem make you do better than an easy time of it? What problem have you learned the most from?
8. According to Malcolm X what is the best way to prepare for tomorrow? How will you get ready for your future?
9. What does it mean to "pull yourself up by your bootstraps?" How does Thurgood Marshall believe people are able to achieve? Who has helped you? Who will you help?
10. According to Mohammed Ali a person must take risks. What risks will you take to succeed?
11. Ethel Waters believes everyone is gifted. What is your gift?
12. What is an example of respect? What is an example of self respect? What is an example of disrespect?
13. What did Rosa Parks do in Montgomery, Alabama? How as she a model for others? How can you be a model for others?
14. Discrimination did not anger Zora Neale Hurston. How did it make her feel? What can you learn from her example?
15. When is the time to do the right thing? What one right thing will you do today?

Projects:

Language Arts:

Create a biography of one of the people quoted in the book. Your report must include a timeline of their life, a list of their important contributions, and a picture (which you can create).

