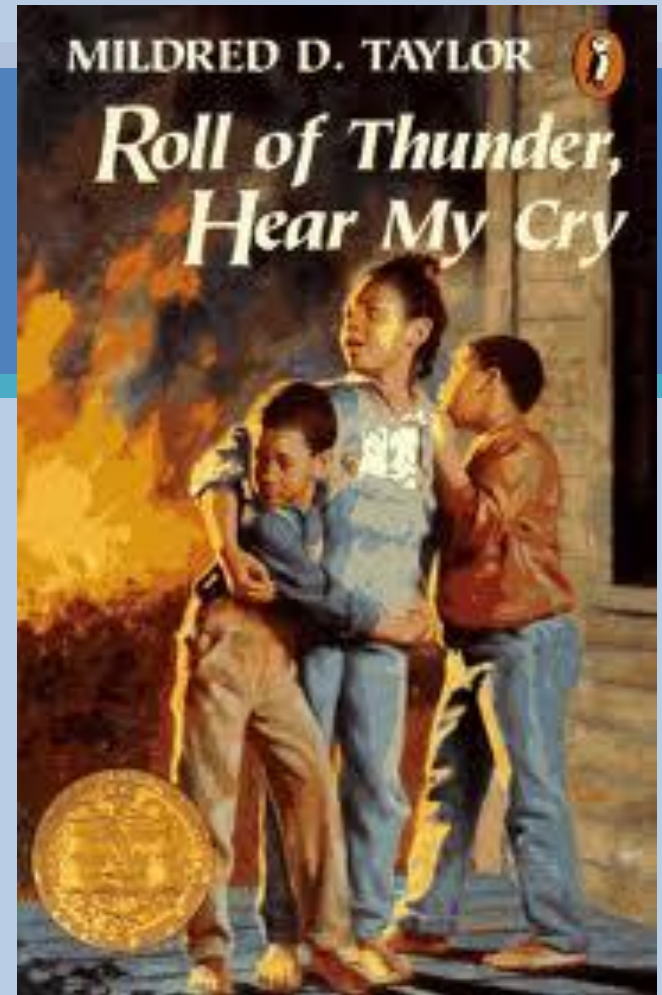


Background
Information About:

*Roll of Thunder, Hear
My Cry*

By: Mildred D.
Taylor



K - W - L

K - stands for what you **know** already about the word or phrase

W - stands for what you **want** to learn

L - stands for what you **learned**

What do you **know** already about
the following terms?

Struggles

What are struggles?

Who has them?

Does everyone have the same struggles?

Injustice

What is an injustice?

Who faces injustices?

*Does everyone encounter the same
injustices?*

Racism

What is racism?

What makes a person “racist?”

Tolerance

What does it mean to be tolerant of another person or group of people?

How can we practice tolerance in our everyday lives?

Segregation

What was segregation in the United States?

Who was affected by this?

Was segregation fair?

Prejudice

What is prejudice?

What are some examples of prejudice?

Life in 1933 America

*What was life like in 1933 in America?
Was everyday life fair for all Americans
back in 1933?*

What is a struggle?

A struggle is defined as:

- ***A war, fight, conflict, or contest of any kind.***
- ***A task or goal requiring much effort to accomplish or achieve.***



Sometimes life is unfair.

We call this
injustice.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines
an **injustice** as the:

absence of justice

violation of right or of the rights of another

Racism is one of the worst injustices encountered by people.

Racism is judging people based on the color of their skin.

*People who are **racist** believe that people of their color of skin are better than people of other colors.*

*How can we find a way to
deal with the many
injustices that surround us?*

As people, it is important for us to be **tolerant** of one another's differences.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines **tolerance** as:

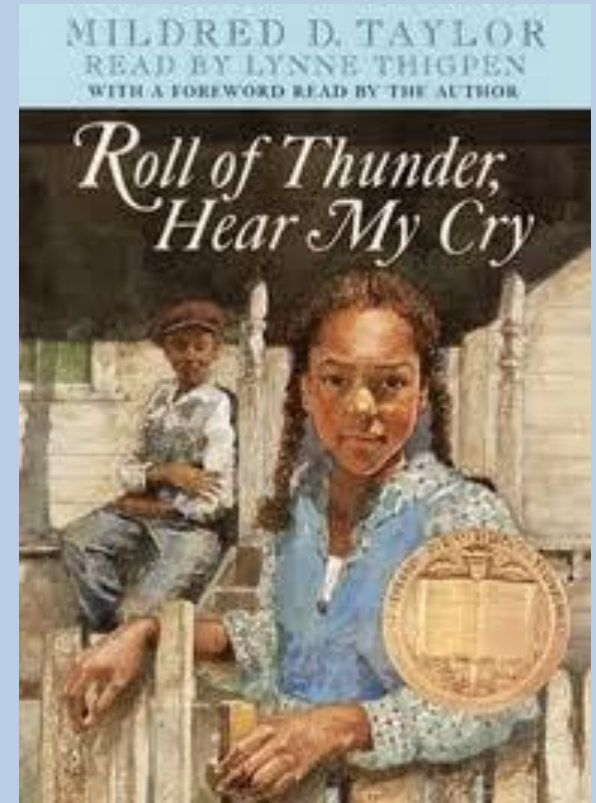
- 2 **a** : sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own
- **b** : the act of allowing something

In simpler terms, tolerance is very similar to the words patience and acceptance.

Mildred Taylor is the author of the book we are going to read.

She found a way to deal with the injustices she saw surrounding African American people when segregation was in effect.

She wrote *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* to tell a story of heroic African Americans who fought the injustices around them.



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry takes place in 1933.

This was during a time known as the Great Depression in America.

The Great Depression was the economic crisis beginning with the stock market crash in 1929 and it continued through the 1930s.

The primary effect of the Great Depression was that it caused millions of workers to lose their jobs.

Unemployment rose from 3% in 1929 to 25% by 1933.

Because of the Great Depression, more than 9,000 banks closed during the 1930s, causing millions of people to lose their life savings!

This was a tough period of time for all Americans.

About the Story

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry takes place in 1933.

Back in 1933, black and white people were kept separated by laws known as the **Jim Crow laws**. They enforced **segregation**.



About Segregation in 1933

Segregation kept black and white people separate.

Black and white children could not attend the same schools.

People of differing races couldn't travel in the same train cars.

They could ride the same busses, but black people were forced to ride in the very back of the bus.

If a white person got on and didn't have a seat, a black person would be forced to get off of the bus to give up their seat.

Segregation was not fair.



It was an injustice.

Segregation

Segregation is defined as:

- *The enforced separation of different racial groups in a country, community, or establishment.*

The Jim Crow Laws laws were meant to create “separate but equal” spaces for the differing races.

However, they created spaces that were **separate**, but not always **equal**.



Schools for black students did not receive as much money as white schools did.

Because of this, their textbooks were not as nice, they often ran out of chalk, and the students often did not have busses to take them to and from school.



The Ku Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan is an example of a group of people who were **intolerant** of people of other racial backgrounds.

The KKK were infamous for burning down churches, schools, and houses of people from racial backgrounds other than their own.

In *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, the Ku Klux Klan is referred to as “the night men” because they would travel at night, burning down the houses of African American people living in their community.

Jim Crow Laws were in effect in America from 1876 until 1965.

In 1954, the supreme court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* declared segregation in schools as **unconstitutional**.

This would pave the way for **integration** in American schools.



The Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Supreme Court passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

This made it against the law to **discriminate** against people based on the color of their skin.



When you **discriminate** against someone, you are not treating them fairly.

According to the Merriam-Webster

Dictionary, **discrimination** is defined as:

***b** : prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action, or treatment*

Prejudice is the irrational hatred or suspicion of a specific group, race, or religion

***In simpler terms, prejudice often happens when you “prejudge” someone.**



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry takes place in the 1930's, when segregation was still going on.

As we read the story, we will see many injustices occurring against the main characters -all based upon the color of their skin.



BIG Ideas

Although the story we will be reading focuses upon the struggle of equality for African American people, people of all ages and backgrounds struggle with unique issues.

How did the struggles of people living in the past shape the country we live in today?

What have you **learned** that you did not know before this presentation?

What do you **want** to learn in this unit?