

## #10045 AMAZING GRACE

WESTON WOODS STUDIOS, 1994  
Grade Level: K-3  
9 mins.

### DESCRIPTION

Grace loves stories and acting them out, either as heroine or hero. She wants to be Peter Pan in the class play, but her friends discourage her because she's a girl and African-American. Grace auditions anyway and wins the part, proving she can be anything she wants to be. Based on the book by Mary Hoffman.

### ACADEMIC STANDARDS

#### Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Knows how to maintain mental and emotional health
  - ♦ Benchmark: Knows characteristics and conditions associated with positive self-esteem (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 1.)

#### Subject Area: Civics—What are the Basic Values and Principals of American Democracy?

- Standard: Understands the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society
  - ♦ Benchmark: Knows conflicts that are caused by diversity (e.g., unfair discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, language, and gender; alienation of one group from another; efforts to impose beliefs and customs on others) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 2.)

#### Subject Area: Language Arts—Reading

- Standard: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of literary texts
  - ♦ Benchmark: Uses reading skills and strategies to understand a variety of familiar literary passages and texts (e.g., fairy tales, folktales, fiction, nonfiction, legends, fables, myths, poems, nursery rhymes, picture books, predictable books) (See INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS 3.)

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To learn about the importance of self-esteem.
2. To recognize that people should not be limited because of their gender or race.
3. To promote the reading of children's literature.

## VOCABULARY

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|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. act              | 6. imagine/ imaginary | 11. play (to act) |
| 2. adventure        | 7. made-up            | 12. stories       |
| 3. amazing          | 8. Nana               | 13. success       |
| 4. audition         | 9. part (a role)      |                   |
| 5. ballet/ballerina | 10. play (a drama)    |                   |

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the book *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman.
2. Make a list of favorite stories and fairy tales. Identify the main characters of the stories. Compare this list to the characters and stories that Grace acted out.
3. Locate Trinidad on a world map. Identify this as the place where the main character's family was from originally.

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

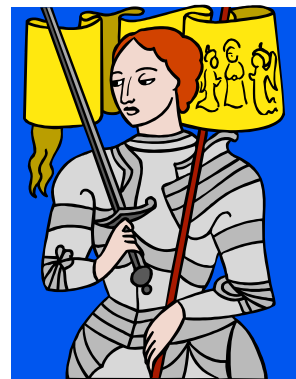
1. What kind of stories did Grace love?
2. What did Grace like to do with the stories? What parts did she like the best? What props did she use when she played make-believe?
3. Name characters that Grace acted out.
4. What play did Grace's teacher say the class would be doing? What part did Grace want? What reasons did Raj and Natalie give Grace for why she couldn't be Peter Pan?
5. Why did the teacher say there would be auditions next week? What did the students have to do to get ready for the audition?
6. Why was Grace sad? How was she cheered up?
7. Where did Nana take Grace on Saturday? What ballet did they see? Who played Juliet? Why did Nana take Grace to see that specific ballet? How did it affect Grace?
8. Describe what happened at the auditions on Monday at school. What part did Grace get?
9. Was the performance of *Peter Pan* a success? How did Grace feel after the performance?
10. What did Nana mean when she said, "You can do anything you want if you put your mind to it"?



## Applications and Activities

1. Discuss the things the student's feel they are good at. Give each student an opportunity to share their special skills or abilities.
2. Discuss favorite stories and fairy tales. Choose one favorite to dramatize. Devise simple props. Invite other classes and/or parents to watch the drama.
3. Read or watch a video of the story *Peter Pan*. Discuss the challenges of doing this story as a drama.
4. Identify different careers and the responsibilities of the people involved in those kinds of jobs. Emphasize that race or gender is not what determines people's capabilities.
5. Recall the poster of the ballerina outside the theater. Make posters to advertise the *Peter Pan* play that the students performed in the video. Display the posters.
6. Read stories or portions of stories about the characters that Grace acted out in the first part of the video. Consider including:
 

a. Joan of Arc.	e. Hannibal.
b. Anansi the Spider.	f. Hiawatha.
c. Achilles from <i>The Iliad</i> .	g. Mowgli from <i>The Jungle Book</i> .
d. Long John Silver from <i>Treasure Island</i> .	h. Aladdin.



## SUMMARY

Even though her classmates discourage Grace from trying out for Peter Pan in the school play because she is black and a girl, Grace wins the part and proves that she can be anything she wants to be.

## CMP RELATED RESOURCES

- [The Red Shoes #10095](#)
- [Leo the Late Bloomer #10070](#)
- [Carol's Mirror #3018](#)
- [The Ugly Duckling #3675](#)
- [Honk! #10026](#)

## World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

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- **MARY HOFFMAN**

<http://www.maryhoffman.co.uk/grace.htm>

This is the author's official Web site. It includes summaries and commentaries on all her fiction books, as well as information on other books and anthologies that she has written or edited.



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- **SELF-ESTEEM LESSON PLAN W/ AMAZING GRACE**

<http://www.newton.mec.edu/franklin/Yes/Lessons/Happy/happy.htm>

A "Positive Images" lesson plan with objectives, vocabulary, and links for this story and others.

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- **LITERATURE-BASED LESSON PLAN**

<http://www.wfu.edu/~stewart/mBrooks.htm>

You can use this detailed lesson plan for *Amazing Grace*. This is a fifty-minute or more plan, which includes reading to the class, discussion questions, and enrichment activities.