

## Program Study Guide



BRINGING THEIR  
STORIES TO  
LIFE!

**"Breaking Ground"** is an interactive historical journey from inside a creatively written and illustrated book. ***Lil Dan the drummer boy/A CIVIL WAR STORY*** by **Romare Bearden** uses a young boy, *Li'l Dan* as the protagonist and narrator of the book. Through Li'l Dan the students will learn about the history of the Civil War and effect of slavery in the United States.

Jerry G. takes on the character of Li'l Dan to fully immerse the students in the story. The students will drum along to the performance and even join Jerry G. on stage. The images of Romare Bearden are displayed along with the performance to bring the story to life.

Storyteller and Percussionist  
Jerry G. White  
A PERFORMANCE METHOD  
[www.aperformacemethod.com](http://www.aperformacemethod.com)

## ARTIST BIO

**JERRY G. WHITE:** As a percussionist, lyricist, songwriter, screenwriter, writer, producer, director, actor, and singer, Jerry G. White fuses all of those elements into his passion and love for performing and being an arts educator. A graduate of Newberry College (SC) with a BA in Speech and Theater, Jerry G. White has taught all ages the art of performance which includes: percussion, acting, singing, juggling, storytelling, songwriting, producing, directing, and writing. He is an Imaginator at the Children's Museum of Atlanta. You can find Jerry G. in May and September volunteering and performing at the Decatur Arts Festival and the AJC Decatur Book Festival. He performs throughout the Atlanta metro area with his performance entity A Performance Method. His beloved phrase and mantra is "Bring the words to life!"

A Performance Method  
[www.aperformancemethod.com](http://www.aperformancemethod.com)

## SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS



PowerPoint projector and wireless remote

8ft Table

Space: Media Center, Cafeteria, etc.

Students sit in a horseshoe space in front of performer

## GEORGIA STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

ELAGSE1RL1: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text

ELAGSE1RL3: Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.

ELAGSE1RL7: Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.

ELAGSE1SL2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

M1GM.1 - Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

M1GM.1b. Echo simple singing and speech patterns; perform call and response songs.

M1GM.2 - Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music

M1GM.2a. Echo simple rhythmic patterns using body percussion as well as classroom instruments with appropriate technique.

M1GM.2b. Perform a steady beat and simple rhythmic patterns using body percussion as well as classroom instruments with appropriate technique

M1GM.4 - Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments

M1GM.4a. Improvise simple body percussion patterns.

M1GM.4b. Improvise soundscapes (e.g., weather, animals, and other sound effects).

M1GM.9 - Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

M1GM.9a. Sing, listen, and/or move to music from various historical periods and cultures.

## OBJECTIVES

- To increase awareness of the Civil War and slavery.
- To show the historical significance of Percussion instruments.
- To engage the students in using percussion instruments.

## ASSESS THE LEARNING

- What does an author and illustrator do?
- What is a plantation?
- What continent did the Djembe drum come from?
- How did Li'l Dan make his drum?
- Where did Li'l Dan go when he left the plantation?
- How did Li'l Dan help the Union army win the battle?
- What does it mean to be a hero?
- Do you think Li'l Dan was a hero? Explain.

## KEY VOCABULARY

**Djembe**- hand drum originating in West Africa.

**Snare Drum**- a small drum originally used in the military.

**Rudiments**-Drum rudiments are the basic tools of the drummer. They are the accepted standard in the performance of the basic rhythmic patterns that comprise many of the rhythmic patterns found in the common compositions in Western music.

**Paradiddle**-an exercise or sequence performed typically on the snare drum, marked by four basic beats with alternation of the right hand and left hand on successive strong beats, and begun and ended slowly with a dramatic increase in tempo in the middle.



**Plantation**- a usually large farm on which cotton, tobacco, coffee, sugar cane, or the like is cultivated, usually by slaves.

**Civil War**- The war fought in the United States between northern (Union) and southern (Confederate) states from 1861 to 1865, in which the Confederacy sought to establish itself as a separate nation.

## Story Map

Draw the parts of the story below.

Beginning



Middle



End



## EXTEND THE LEARNING

- Write your own story about the Civil War or another topic.
- Draw your own picture of Li'l Dan.
- Act out one of your favorite books.
- Go on-line and watch and listen to Percussion instruments.
- You too can become a Drummer! Join your school band or orchestra!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### Books

Harvey, Jeanne Walker (Author), Zunon, Elizabeth (Illustrator),  
*My Hands Sing the Blues: Romare Bearden's Childhood Journey*  
Hardcover - 2011

Herbert, Janis, *The Civil War for Kids: A History with 21 Activities (For Kids series)* Paperback - 1999

### Online

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwgihmWN6iE>-Civil War Facts For Kids-History For Kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTuqs4YOHT0>-  
American Civil War | History of the United States | 1861-1865 |  
Documentary The Best Film Archives

<http://takelessons.com/blog/a-beginner%2527s-guide-to-drum-rudiments-z07> - A Beginner's Guide to Drum Rudiments