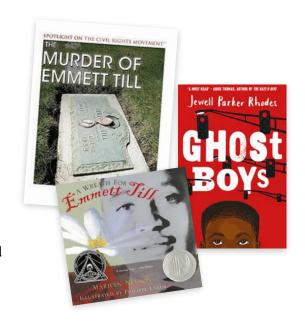
Unit 2.1 • Bearing Witness Unit Overview

In this unit, students consider the meaning of justice, the importance of bearing witness to acts of injustice, and whether bearing witness can be a form of justice.

Unit texts

The unit's nonfiction text, *The Murder of Emmett Till*, provides background knowledge on Emmett Till's life and murder, and the important contributions his story made to the Civil Rights movement. *A Wreath for Emmett Till* offers a response to this tragedy in poetry. The unit novel, *Ghost Boys*, is an engaging magical realist text about a young African-American boy who is shot by a White police officer in modern-day Chicago. His ghost then meets the ghost of Emmett Till. The novel explores themes of race-based violence, justice and bearing witness.



Literature Used in Unit 2.1:

- Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *The Murder of Emmett Till* by Henrietta Toth
- A Wreath for Emmett Till by Marilyn Nelson

Unit skills and topics

Literary analysis	 Interrelation of character, plot and setting Comparing and contrasting a fictional portrayal and a historical account of the same event
Reading comprehension	 Summarizing and clarifying as components of Reciprocal Teaching Using 5 Ws (who, did what, when, etc.) as a scaffold for summarizing Using and citing evidence from a text
Decoding	 Identifying base words and chunking compound words Recognizing and chunking words with a base plus a prefix or suffix
Debate	What could bring justice for Jerome?
Fluency topics	 Trayvon Martin, Jim Crow, the KKK, Civil Rights, Tamir Rice, the South Side of Chicago, Peter Pan, polio, the Negro Leagues, anti-Semitism, Day of the Dead, Thurgood Marshall, George Floyd