Dr. Anna Julia Cooper was an educational leader, feminist, and advocate for the rights of minorities and women. She educated all Americans about sexism and racism through her writing, speeches, and decades of community service.

The Thumping Within

In 1892, Mrs. Cooper started publishing A Voice from the South by a Black Woman of the South. It was a collection of essays that presented great-nieces and nephews ranging in age from 6 months to 12 years. Because of her teaching and family responsibilities, she was unable to go to Columbia full time to finish her degree. On December 29, 1925, D.C. Commissioner William Tindall awarded her degree in a special ceremony. She was the fourth African-American woman to hold a doctorate.

She was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on January 1, 1848. Mrs. Cooper was the daughter of Hannah Stanley, a former slave of the Haywood family. She had two older brothers and two younger sisters. We do know that she was born in Raleigh, North Carolina. She had two older brothers and two younger sisters.

In 1881, Mrs. Cooper started attending Ohio’s Oberlin College, one of the first co-educational institutions in the world. Probably first heard Anna’s voice in this collection of essays that presented a feminist’s perspective on the world. Mrs. Cooper’s essays were published in several African-American newspapers and magazines, including the Colored American and the Crisis.

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Anna’s voice was silenced on February 27, 1964, when she died from a heart attack at the age of 105 years old. She lived a rich life and made significant contributions to the fields of education, feminism, and civil rights. She is remembered as a tireless advocate for the rights of all people, particularly African Americans and women.

A Voice from the South

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VIGNETTE: Voices from the Past and Present

Whitney is a jazz singer who has some amazing ideas about how to promote music in her school. She wants to create a music theater, where students can perform plays and musicals. Whitney is excited about the possibilities and is determined to make it happen.

ACTIVITY ONE: Reading: Amazing Grace

Read Amazing Grace, by Robb Pearlman. This book tells the story of how the song "Amazing Grace" was written and its impact on people throughout history. The reader can learn about the song's significance and how it continues to inspire individuals today.

ACTIVITY ONE: Purchasing From the Past

Distribute copies of Amazing Grace to students. Ask them to think of a person who has been an inspiration to them. Students should describe the person and explain why they chose them. This activity promotes critical thinking and empathy.

ACTIVITY ONE: Interactive 4th Grade Film Festival

Ask students to create a short film based on the story of Amazing Grace. Encourage them to think about the message of the song and how it relates to their own lives. This activity fosters creativity and self-expression.

ACTIVITY ONE: The Song Can Be Yours

The class can practice singing Amazing Grace together. Ask students to imagine that they are part of a musical group performing the song. This activity promotes teamwork and unity.

ACTIVITY ONE: Sing with Us

Students can perform the song Amazing Grace in front of the class. They can invite their friends and family to come and listen. This activity promotes inclusivity and community engagement.

ACTIVITY ONE: Celebrating Diversity

Students should research and present on a famous woman from the past who fought for equality and social justice. This activity promotes cultural awareness and appreciation.

ACTIVITY ONE: Writing: I Wouldn’t Trade My Life

Ask students to write a paragraph about a person who has inspired them. They should describe what makes this person special and how they have impacted their lives. This activity promotes self-reflection and growth.

ACTIVITY ONE: Creating: The Dream Can Be Yours

Students can create art projects that represent their dreams and aspirations. They can use various mediums such as clay, paint, or collage. This activity promotes creativity and self-expression.

ACTIVITY ONE: Sharing: The Dream Has Become Reality

Have students share their art projects with the class. They can explain what their dreams are and how they plan to make them a reality. This activity promotes accountability and motivation.

ACTIVITY ONE: Closing: The Dream Can Be Yours

Conclude the lesson by discussing the importance of having dreams and pursuing them. Ask students to reflect on their own dreams and how they can work towards making them a reality. This activity promotes goal-setting and determination.

ACTIVITY TWO: Go Fish

Create a Go Fish game using the fearless females cards. Each card should have the fearless female's name, picture, and one fact. There will be four different facts altogether (one per card). Students play the game, asking each other for cards and trying to make sets. The first student to make four sets wins the game.

ACTIVITY TWO: Voices from the Past and Present

Share a story about a famous woman who fought for equality and social justice. Ask students to think about how this woman's actions have influenced their own lives. This activity promotes critical thinking and reflection.

ACTIVITY TWO: Preparing for the Future

Have students brainstorm ideas for how they can make a difference in their community. They can create plans for projects or initiatives that they can implement in the future. This activity promotes social responsibility and civic engagement.

ACTIVITY TWO: Promoting Inclusion

Students should research and present on how the school can promote inclusivity and diversity. They can discuss strategies such as multicultural programs, anti-bias education, and diversity clubs. This activity promotes cultural awareness and appreciation.