

The Land

By Mildred D. Taylor

Grade Level: 4th – Middle School

Background Information:

- ✓ The students will have to have some familiarity with the post Civil War era in the Southern United States.

Highlight During Reading:

★ Family Tree-

It may be helpful to create a family tree as a class while reading the novel to keep track of the relationships between the characters. The family tree can be used to chart descriptors of each character, and keep track of their whereabouts.

★ Journaling-

The students should maintain journals during the reading of the book to keep track of questions or comments they may have. Journals should be interactive, with peer and teacher comments.

★ Land-

Paul equates a great deal of his self worth with ownership of land. Despite his inability to completely fit into the strict societal roles of the time, he holds a dream similar to people of any race. His dream land is a place in which he will always fit. During his lifetime, he makes several sacrifices in order to achieve his dream of owning a beautiful acreage of land. Chart the decisions he made along his journey that lead to him owning the land of his dreams.

Ask the students: Is this similar to the dreams people have today? If Paul lived in current day, how might his story be different? What obstacles would he face, and what would he need to sacrifice in order to make his dream come true?

Post Reading Activities:

- ✓ Have students outline their dream land / home, Using newspapers, the internet, and other resources, allow them to research the purchase and the operating cost of their dream home along with the amount of income they would need to have in order to secure the property.