

Name:

Day One

Jim Crow: Racism by Law

Part 1: Silent read

→ What were “Jim Crow” laws? Read silently.

The United States has a history of racist laws. During slavery, African Americans had very few rights. After the Civil War, life got better for African Americans. There was no more legal slavery. African Americans could vote and start businesses. But local governments soon passed new and racist laws. These were called Jim Crow laws.

Jim Crow laws worked to keep Black people separate from White people. There were separate schools and separate restaurants. There were separate hospitals and even separate water fountains. Black people paid the same taxes. But they did not get the same services. For example, schools for Black students were not as good quality.

Both the North and the South had these kinds of laws. But things in the South were usually much worse for African Americans. There were even more unwritten rules in the South. White people used these rules to keep Black people down. Black people had to always be careful how they treated White people. They had to step out of the way on the sidewalk. They had to speak very respectfully, even to White children. Imagine a grown woman saying “Yes, sir” to a little boy!

African Americans followed these rules because it was dangerous to break them. Some White people would destroy a Black person’s home or business if they broke these rules. Black people were beaten and even killed for breaking these rules.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

The United States has a history of racist laws. During slavery, African Americans had very few rights. After the Civil War, life got better for African Americans. There was no more legal slavery. African Americans could vote and start businesses. But local governments soon passed new and racist laws. These were called Jim Crow laws.

Jim Crow laws worked to keep Black people separate from White people. There were separate schools and separate restaurants. There were separate hospitals and even separate water fountains. Black people paid the same taxes. But they did not get the same services. For example, schools for Black students were not as good quality.

Both the North and the South had these kinds of laws. But things in the South were usually much worse for African Americans. There were even more unwritten rules in the South. White people used these rules to keep Black people down. Black people had to always be careful how they treated White people. They had to step out of the way on the sidewalk. They had to speak very respectfully, even to White children. Imagine a grown woman saying “Yes, sir” to a little boy!

African Americans followed these rules because it was dangerous to break them. Some White people would destroy a Black person’s home or business if they broke these rules. Black people were beaten and even killed for breaking these rules.

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What was the goal of the Jim Crow Laws?

Name a couple of places where Black people were kept separate from White people under Jim Crow laws.

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

The United States has a history / of racist laws. // During slavery, / African Americans had very few rights. // After the Civil War, / life got better for African Americans. // There was no more legal slavery. // African Americans could vote / and start businesses. // But local governments / soon passed new and racist laws. // These were called Jim Crow laws. //

Jim Crow laws / worked to keep Black people / separate from White people. // There were separate schools / and separate restaurants. // There were separate hospitals / and even separate water fountains. // Black people paid the same taxes. // But they did not get the same services. // For example, / schools for Black students / were not as good quality. //

Both the North and the South / had these kinds of laws. // But things in the South / were usually much worse / for African Americans. // There were even more unwritten rules / in the South. // White people used these rules / to keep Black people down. // Black people had to always be careful / how they treated White people. // They had to step out of the way / on the sidewalk. // They had to speak very respectfully, / even to White children. // Imagine a grown woman / saying “Yes, sir” / to a little boy! //

African Americans / followed these rules / because it was dangerous to break them. // Some White people / would destroy a Black person’s home or business / if they broke these rules. // Black people were beaten / and even killed / for breaking these rules. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.