

Civil War

Drama Circle

Directions: The entire class will sit in a large circle. Each student will preview a card for fluency/understanding. Students are expected to stand and go to the middle of the circle to act out their part of the Drama Circle. Practice with students first, and then perform the Drama Circle from beginning to end.

<p>1. (Start Card) Say in a booming voice, "I am Harriet Tubman leading slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad", and sing one line of "Follow the Drinking Gourd."</p>	<p>2. After Harriet Tubman sings, stand and say (like a gentleman), "I am Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and friend of Lincoln, please lend me an ear." (Hold your hand to your ear)</p>
<p>3. When Frederick Douglass says to listen, pretend to sit and write and say, "Abraham Lincoln here, writing the Emancipation Proclamation to free the slaves." "I must end slavery and keep the United States together."</p>	<p>4. After Lincoln writes the Emancipation Proclamation say, "I am Harriet Beecher Stowe, abolitionist and author of <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>." "My book will bring the evils of slavery to light." (Do a curtsy with your dress)</p>
<p>5. When Stowe curtsies, say "I am Sojourner Truth; I escaped from slavery and became an abolitionist and fought for women's rights." (With one arm extended) say, "Truth is powerful and it prevails."</p>	<p>6. After Sojourner Truth gives her speech (March to the circle) and say, "Ulysses S. Grant at your service; I am the General of the Union Army and will later become president of the United States." (March back to seat)</p>

<p>7. After Grant marches back to his seat, (Stand and salute) say, "I am Robert E. Lee, General of the Confederate Army; Lincoln asked me to fight for the north, but I couldn't fight against my southern state of Virginia." (With a look of sadness, march back to your seat)</p>	<p>8. After Lee gives his speech, (Walk around the circle pretending the students are your patients) and say, "I am Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, and nurse of the Civil War." (With a look of exhaustion, walk back wearily to your seat)</p>
<p>9. After Clara Barton sits down say, "Extra! Extra! Read all about the brutal practice of slavery in my newspaper, <i>The Liberator!</i> "I am William Lloyd Garrison and I will not stop writing about slavery until it has been abolished forever!" (Pretend to write and then have a seat)</p>	<p>10. When William Lloyd Garrison finishes his speech, (Stand with one fist in the air) and say, "I am John Brown, and during the Bleeding Kansas conflict, my sons and I led attacks on slave holders; I believed in abolishing slavery by any means necessary!" (Put up two fists, and then sit down)</p>
<p>11. After John Brown violently sits down say, "I am Dred Scott; and I sued for my rights as a freedman, but the Supreme Court did not see things my way." "This decision violated my rights as a United States citizen." (Show a thumbs down and have a seat)</p>	<p>12. When Dred Scott sits down, stand and say, "I am Nat Turner, and I was an enslaved man who successfully led slave revolts in Virginia and throughout the South." "My rebellions would lead to further oppression in the South." (Pretend to run and go hide as you return to your seat)</p>

<p>13. After Nat Turner sits down say, "The Confederacy needs its own president now that the South has seceded!" "I am Jefferson Davis, and I will help the South fight for their states' rights and way of life as the president of the Confederacy!" (Put up your right hand like you are taking an oath, and then sit down)</p>	<p>14. When Jefferson Davis takes his seat, stand and say, "Stonewall Jackson here, I was a Confederate General and got my nickname at the First Battle of Bull Run when I refused to be defeated." I was shot by my own men at the Battle of Chancellorsville." (Pretend to be shot and fall down before sitting down)</p>
<p>15. After Stonewall Jackson dies, stand and say, "I am William Tecumseh Sherman of the Union Army, and my March to the Sea brought total war upon the South. This march would bring them to submission and lead to a Northern Victory." (March back to your seat)</p>	<p>16. When Sherman marches back to his seat, stand and say, "I am Lucretia Mott, and I was an abolitionist and womens' rights activist." "I was elected as the first president of the American Equal Rights Association." (Pretend to protest) and say, "Equal rights!" "Equal rights!" before having a seat.</p>
<p>17. As Lucretia Mott takes her seat, stand and say, "I am Susan B. Anthony and I fought for women's suffrage during the Civil War and Reconstruction era." "I am best known for advocating for women to get the right to vote, but would pass away before my dream was realized with the 19th Amendment in 1920." (Look down in sadness)</p>	<p>18. When Susan B. Anthony sits down, stand and say, "I am Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and I believe that all people deserve equality!" I fought alongside my friend Susan B. Anthony, and was an abolitionist, as well as a women's rights advocate." (Hold out both hands) and say, "I believe that women and men of all races are equal!" (Take a seat)</p>

<p>19. When Elizabeth Cady Stanton sits down, stand and say, "I am John Wilkes Booth, and I assassinated Abraham Lincoln when the North won the Civil War." "I did not like his policies and was angry that the Confederacy lost the war." "I ran from Ford's Theater after the assassination, but would later be caught!" (Pretend to flee back to your seat)</p>	<p>20. When John Wilkes Booth flees back to his seat, stand and say, "I am Andrew Johnson and I became president upon Lincoln's assassination." "We couldn't follow Lincoln's 10% Plan for Reconstruction, so my plan to humiliate the southern elite and unfair practices against freedmen began." (Rub hands together, do an evil laugh and take your seat)</p>
<p>21. After Andrew Johnson does his evil laugh, stand and say, "I am a Radical Republican in Congress and we will force the South to ratify the 13th Amendment to end slavery, the 14th for equal citizenship, and the 15th for black men to vote!" "We will put the military in the South just to make sure and will impeach Andrew Johnson!" (Pretend to kick Andrew Johnson out of office and take your seat)</p>	<p>22. (End Card) When the Radical Republican of Congress takes his seat, stand and say, "I am Hiram Revels, and was the first African American to serve in the United States Congress." "I was a minister and served in the Senate until 1870, which all came to be thanks to Congress' Plan for Reconstruction." (Hold two arms in the air victoriously and then take your seat)</p>