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Unit Plan Overview for Interdisciplinary Traveling Trunk

Title of Unit: A Poet, A Potter, and A Slave: What David Drake Can Teach Us **(PART 1 of 2)**

Grade Level: 8 Duration: 4 weeks

Developed by: Brianna Arnone and Jennifer Gilmore

Magellan Scholar Project Mentor: Dr. Tom Mack

South Carolina Academic Standards for two or more content areas:

ELA (CCSS)	Science	Math	Social Studies
8.RL.2, 8.RL.4, 8.RL.6 8.RI.4 8.W.3	8-1.1, 1.2, 1.3 8-2.6 8-3.9		

<p>Summary of activities</p>	<p>Dave the Potter lived in Edgefield, South Carolina in the 1800s. It was quite unusual for a slave to be literate, but Dave was, and he inscribed distinctive couplets on his pots. In this unit, eighth grade students will learn about Dave and read examples of his poetry, such as:</p> <p><i>Dave belongs to Mr. Miles Wher the oven bakes & the pot biles 31 July 1840</i></p> <p>In Language Arts, the students will write their own couplets, as well as a RAFT and an argument for or against the institution of slavery. In Science, the students will participate in a Tabletop Archaeology mini-excavation dig; in Art, they will work with clay and glaze. Essential questions in this unit include: Why was slavery so common throughout the South? What is the importance of literacy? Where was David Drake's position (as a human, as a commodity)? What was David Drake's perspective on slavery? How does one assign value to a David Drake pot? Literature circle books (4 copies of each) include <i>Chains</i>, <i>To Be a Slave</i>, <i>If You Lived When There Was Slavery in the Time of America</i>, <i>Daily Life in a Southern Plantation 1853</i>, <i>War Comes to Willy Freeman</i>, <i>Christmas In The Big House: Christmas in the Quarters</i>, and <i>Fredrick Douglass: The Last Day of Slavery</i>. The unit's text set includes single copies of <i>Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School</i>, <i>Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave</i>, <i>Circling the Savannah: Cultural Landmarks of the Central Savannah River Area</i>, <i>Glazes from Natural Sources</i>, <i>Raised in Clay: The Southern Pottery Tradition</i>, <i>Rocks and Minerals</i>, <i>Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave</i>, <i>The Afro-American Tradition in the Decorative Arts</i>, and <i>Hands-On Archaeology: Real-Life Activities for Kids</i>.</p>
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<p>Literature Circle Novels (4 copies of each)</p>	<p>Chains To Be a Slave If You Lived When There Was Slavery in the Time of America Daily Life in a Southern Plantation 1853 War Comes to Willy Freeman Christmas In The Big House: Christmas in the Quarters</p>		
<p>Text Set</p>	<p>The Practical Geologist: The Introductory Guide to the Basics of Geology and to Collecting and Identifying Rocks Awakening the Heart: Exploring Poetry in Elementary and Middle School Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave Circling the Savannah: Cultural Landmarks of the Central Savannah River Area Glazes from Natural Sources Raised in Clay: The Southern Pottery Tradition Rocks and Minerals Carolina Clay: The Life and Legend of the Slave Potter Dave The Afro-American Tradition in the Decorative Arts Hands-On Archaeology: Real-Life Activities for Kids</p>		
<p>Essential Questions</p>	<p>1. Why was slavery so common throughout the South? 2. What is the importance of literacy, especially for a slave? 3. What were the functions of pottery?</p>		
<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Poetry Metaphor Couplet Tone Rhyme Form Setting Symbol Imagery Simile</p>	<p>Sedimentary Igneous Metamorphic Excavation Alkaline Clay Kaolin Glaze</p>	<p>Ash Stoneware Pottery</p>
<p>Materials</p>	<p>9 containers of the same size Household/Classroom items – bobby pins, paper clips, coins, hair ties, small figurines, keys, etc. Graphing Paper Popsicle sticks (colored) Lined Paper Pencils</p>		

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Activities	<p>For the literature portion, the students will complete a couplet activity where they will use David Drake's poetry as an example. They, like Dave, will create couplets of poetry based on experiences or particular themes.</p> <p>For the science portion, the students will perform a playground pick-up, which will resemble the preparation for an excavation. Using simple school supplies, the students will mark all items that they find on the playground with colored sticks. Then, they will record all of their findings and map the individual sticks on a larger map. Like archeologists, the students will use this technique in order to prepare for an excavation by gathering clues about previous activities.</p> <p>Also, for the science portion, the students will participate in a mini-excavation dig. In this activity, the students will understand the basic elements required in a site excavation. In groups, the students will excavate containers containing artifacts (everyday items) one level at a time. Throughout the process, the students will separate and record all of their findings and present them to the class.</p>
Pre-Writing and Writing Activities	<p>Before the lesson, the students will write a paragraph reflection on major events that are occurring in their lives – ask them to use as much detail as possible, and even write about multiple events.</p>

Attached: Daily Lesson Plans