

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Vocabulary Activity

Part 2: *A Little Light*

MISSION US: "No Turning Back"

A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

After your students have completed Part Two of "No Turning Back," distribute the excerpt from an imagined letter from Verna to her grandmother. Review the directions with your students, and ask them to complete the text using the terms they studied as well as the glossary. Here is the order in which the vocabulary terms should be inserted into the blanks within Verna's letter:

Freedom Riders

CORE

petition

Greenwood High

Brown v. Board of Ed.

Citizens Council

Ross Barnett

Parchman

NAACP

Medgar Evers

human rights

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Name: _____

Date: _____

Activity: Imagine that Verna writes a letter to her grandmother in Sunflower County after her experiences in Part Two. Use the words and definitions on the flashcards, as well as the glossary to fill in the missing words and terms in the letter below.

CORE Parchman NAACP Ross Barnett	human rights Freedom Riders citizens council Brown v. Board of Ed.	Greenwood High Medgar Evers petition
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Dear Grandma,

So much has happened since I last wrote! I received a letter from Robert in Chicago, and he told me about the _____, another non-violent way of protesting being organized by groups like _____. I told Addie that I wished the protests came through Greenwood, and she said her parents would have a fit if they did. She told me about how Uncle Curtis started a _____ to open up _____ after the Supreme Court decided _____, but the white-owned bank retaliated by calling in his car loan and forcing him to lose his own taxi business. He has been cautious ever since.

Last week, Aunt Mabel brought me to the Chalmers' house to help serve dinner to their guests. It was so uncomfortable. I think the Chalmers and their guests were part of the local _____. They played a record with a song on it cheering for our segregationist governor _____, and I overheard them talking about how when the Freedom Riders arrived in Mississippi they would be arrested and sent to _____. Mrs. Chalmers asked me if I wanted to attend Greenwood High with the white students, and I wasn't sure what to say. What would you have said?

The next day at church, Miss Annette, the choir director, pulled me aside and told me that the _____ is setting up a youth branch in Greenwood, and she invited me to come to a meeting on Wednesday. It filled me with hope to meet the field secretary _____, and hear him talk about how freedom and equality are _____ that everyone deserves. I think I want to get involved, but I'm afraid of how Uncle Curtis and Aunt Mabel will respond. What do you think?

Love,
Verna

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Part Two Vocabulary Activity - ANSWER KEY

Dear Grandma,

So much has happened since I last wrote! I received a letter from Robert in Chicago, and he told me about the [**Freedom Riders**], another non-violent way of protesting being organized by groups like [**CORE**]. I told Addie that I wished the protests came through Greenwood, and she said her parents would have a fit if they did. She told me about how Uncle Curtis started a [**petition**] to open up [**Greenwood High**] after the Supreme Court decided [**Brown v. Board of Ed.**], but the white-owned bank retaliated by calling in his car loan and forcing him to lose his own taxi business. He has been cautious ever since.

Last week, Aunt Mabel brought me to the Chalmers' house to help serve dinner to their guests. It was so uncomfortable. I think the Chalmers and their guests were part of the local [**Citizens Council**]. They played a record with a song on it cheering for our segregationist governor [**Ross Barnett**], and I overheard them talking about how when the Freedom Riders arrived in Mississippi they would be arrested and sent to [**Parchman**]. Mrs. Chalmers asked me if I wanted to attend Greenwood High with the white students, and I wasn't sure what to say. What would you have said?

The next day at church, Miss Annette, the choir director, pulled me aside and told me that the [**NAACP**] is setting up a youth branch in Greenwood, and she invited me to come to a meeting on Wednesday. It filled me with hope to meet the field secretary [**Medgar Evers**], and hear him talk about how freedom and equality are [**human rights**] that everyone deserves. I think I want to get involved, but I'm afraid of how Uncle Curtis and Aunt Mabel will respond. What do you think?

Love,
Verna