



Brooklyn *in the* Civil War



Unit: Slavery

Lesson 2.1: *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth* by Anne Rockwell (Alfred A. Knopf, 2000)

Aim: To learn about the life and accomplishments of Sojourner Truth.

Objective: Students listen to Anne Rockwell's picture book biography of Sojourner Truth to learn about this famous abolitionist/feminist as well as slave life in New York.

Materials:

1. *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth* by Anne Rockwell (Alfred A. Knopf, 2000)
2. Character maps for each student

Procedure:

1. Explain to students that you are about to read a picture book biography about a New York slave named Isabella and how she came to be known as Sojourner Truth.
2. Share the front and back covers and encourage students to make predictions about the story.
3. Note the endpapers, featuring some of Sojourner's powerful questions.
4. Distribute character maps (see below) and explain that students will be recording specific events from Sojourner's life which changed her.
5. While reading, teacher may pause to discuss the following questions as they arise:
 - If Isabella was 9 years old in 1806, in what year was she born?
 - On every page, have students study Christie's striking artwork. What is striking about Isabella's appearance? What do the characters' faces tell us? Why does Isabella appear to have no legs at times? Why does she appear so tall at other times?
6. Students can draw their own portraits or illustrate one of the events they included on their character maps.

