

Teach These Books Together

I Ran So You Could Fly (The Paris O'Ree Story)* & *Moments Make the Man

Teaching *I Ran So You Could Fly (The Paris O'Ree Story)* and *Moments Make the Man* together offers Canadian educators a cohesive and meaningful approach to exploring Black history, identity, and resilience across time. Written by a Canadian author, these novels bring a distinctly Canadian perspective to Black history and literature—one that reflects the country's values of inclusion, equity, and critical reflection, while acknowledging both shared and unique Black experiences within Canada and North America.

I Ran So You Could Fly (The Paris O'Ree Story) grounds students in the historical realities of enslavement, resistance, and the pursuit of freedom, establishing a foundational understanding of the systems that shaped Black lives. *Moments Make the Man* builds on this foundation by examining more contemporary experiences of identity, moral choice, and systemic influence. Together, the texts highlight the continuity of Black history and emphasize that it is not confined to the past, but continues to shape lives and opportunities today.

Studied as a pair, these novels strongly support cross-curricular learning outcomes across English Language Arts, Social Studies, History, Civics, and Equity-focused courses. Students engage in critical literacy, historical inquiry, ethical reasoning, and personal reflection while developing empathy and analytical skills. The Canadian authorship adds credibility and relevance for classrooms, allowing students to see Black history and storytelling as integral to Canada's literary and educational landscape.

This paired-text approach aligns with Canadian curriculum priorities related to citizenship, inclusion, and social responsibility. It offers educators a flexible framework for Black History Month or year-long study, helping students make meaningful connections between history and lived experience, literature and society, and the past and present through a clearly Canadian lens.