

## Girls on the R.I.S.E. to Proficiency

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**G**irls on the R.I.S.E.

(Revolutionizing Interpretations through Self-Expression) is a standards-based literacy program purposed to expose girls of color to classical and contemporary texts while proving comprehension, interpretation, and relevance through artistic self-expression.



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The classical text chosen for this summer is *Animal Farm* by George Orwell, which is a novel written to expose the hypocrisy and manipulation by leaders surrounding the Russian Revolution, Communism, and the Cold War.

Most of the book's main characters and those in leadership are masculine, which may cause one to pose the following question. How can a book encompassing masculinity and leadership through force be relevant to

girls of color? The polar opposite between the demographics of the characters and readers is the prime purpose for selecting such a book. Our goal is to prove that girls of color can find themselves in the deep parts of any text, as long as the instruction is relevant and rigorous.

The girls' primary focus will be the ongoing theme of "Freedom," which is prevalent throughout the text. They will also identify and analyze their own personal or social freedoms necessary to obtain ultimate peace. This exploration will take place through discussions, journaling, art design, and writing, which will be presented via an alter ego monologue.

The alter ego monologue, their culminating project, will prove that the participants correctly interpreted the text, through self-expression. The girls will think critically by igniting a fire for their own freedom or social justice. Half of the monologue will depict their identified freedom, and the other half will share the adversities they may face along their journey to said freedom.

The ultimate end result of this innovative and thought-provoking literacy program is for the girls to unveil a passion for reading and writing, comprehension, formulating opinions, and effectively communicating their authentic ideas, no matter the audience. Once this is achieved, the girls' confidence levels will grow and will reflect a rise of scores on the 2016-17 proficiencies, on-demand writing tasks, and 2017 reading and writing Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) data.



Teachers and students pose for a photo during the Girls Rising program.



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