



PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Coming Soon: Stories from the Classroom (and more)

HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES

This is *Teaching Hard History: American Slavery*, a special series from Teaching Tolerance, a project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. And we're back with a special set of episodes to wrap up our first season. Up to this point, we've learned about important aspects of the history of slavery that we should all be teaching.

BETHANY JAY

Everybody knew the reasons that people were seceding before the Civil War because the South was very clear about why they were seceding. They were seceding to protect slavery.

HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES

We've heard valuable techniques for engaging students in what can be a challenging subject.

STEVEN THURSTON OLIVER

It's important to invite students to be part of imagining a better reality. We have to tell our students the truth, all right? And after we tell students the truth, we have to create a safe space for students to process the truth. And lastly, we have to provide clear examples of how they can become part of history by making things better for everyone.

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Our featured guests have shared helpful classroom exercises.

CHRISTY CLARK PUJARA

For the most part, students get it almost immediately. Well, they say, "Well, somebody had to build the ship." Okay, so, we got shipbuilders and carpenters. And they're like, "Well, someone had to load the ship. And where did they get the stuff from that was on the ship?" So that's local farmers. And then they think about, "Well, where did we get the rum from?" Well, the rum came from local distilleries. And then they begin to start to understand, an entire economy—from tradesmen to distillers to merchants to farmers—was caught up on that ship.

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In the coming weeks, we're going to hear from two teachers who are already incorporating new lessons about slavery into their curriculum.

JORDAN LANFAIR

We use Columbus Day as an entry point to talking about the slave trade, and from there, we're able to move into more complex conversations about, "What was slavery? What is its legacy? How do we remember those who survived slaves? And how did they shape America?"

TAMARA SPEARS

Being in New York, I also focus the kids on, "What was New York's role in this? What was the complicity? Why were we profiting so much off of something that we claim was only happening in the South?"

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We're also going to talk specifically about how to apply these concepts in the Language Arts, in addition to History and Social Studies.

JOHN BICKFORD

Sometimes the worst historical books that are the most historically misrepresentative are the best curricular resources. They're easy targets for kids to knock down.

HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES

Can you suggest some ways that teachers can use these problematic trade books on American slavery in the classroom itself?

JOHN BICKFORD

Oh yeah, absolutely!

HASAN KWAME JEFFRIES

And we're going end things by answering questions we've received from educators just like you throughout the season. We're glad you're listening. So stay tuned. In the next few days, we're gonna drop the first episode of the final set of season one. I'm Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries, Associate Professor of History at the Ohio State University, and your host for *Teaching Hard History: American Slavery*.