

JAMES AND THE FIREBURN

An Anti-bullying and Human Rights Story
Inspired by Caribbean History

Study Guide



ANGELA GOLDEN BRYAN

Synopsis

James and the Fireburn is a story within a story, beautifully woven by best-selling author, Angela Golden Bryan. It is important for children to learn right from wrong and to avoid destructive bullying behavior. *James and the Fireburn* not only provides lessons in making wise choices for children, it also teaches them a bit of Virgin Islands' history in the process. This book takes challenging subjects and presents them in a fun rhyme, making both the story and lesson easier to learn and remember. In an age-appropriate manner, *James and the Fireburn* explores what happens when silence prevails and also encourages children to stand up for what is right.

Topics

- ✓ Virgin Islands' History
- ✓ Fairness
- ✓ Mental Health
- ✓ Isolation
- ✓ Anti-Bullying
- ✓ Justice
- ✓ Breaking Silence
- ✓ Human Rights
- ✓ Manners
- ✓ Sadness





A Note from the Author

The title of my book: *James and the Fireburn: An Anti-bullying and Human Rights Story Inspired by Caribbean History*, tells the reader a bit about what to expect from this book, but what it does not tell is the reason why I decided to write this book. Every aspect to this story is personal to me. I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of bullying, as well as human rights violations, both circumstances all too common today. Both bullying and human rights violations have been around for millennia, only the manner in which they are performed has changed. Whether they take place on the schoolground, in one's neighborhood, online, and even in one's home, the effects can change the course of one's life beyond recognition.

The effect of bullying is not an isolated problem because each of our lives are connected and there exists a ripple effect. The bottom line is that bullying and human rights violations simply have to stop and we, as adults, have to teach our children right from wrong. We need to teach children how to build others up, rather than tearing them down.

Why the backdrop of the USVI? I was raised in the Virgin Islands and the older I get, the more I appreciate our rich history and culture. This book was designed to teach and stimulate interests and curiosity about the history of the USVI. The Virgin Islands are a part of the US and have a unique history that is often unexplored in our classrooms. I have simply touched on one historical event specific to the Virgin Islands and hope that this book will serve as a launching pad for further study and discussions, in and out of the classroom. For those who study US history, does it not make sense to learn a bit about this beautiful territory beyond the attraction of tourism?

It is my hope and prayer that *James and the Fireburn* serves as a reminder that we can all do our part to make the world that we live in a better place.



Facilitating a Discussion of James and the Fireburn

James and the Fireburn is appropriate for a range of elementary grades, depending on the students' reading and comprehension level. For this reason, we've included an assortment of questions. Depending on your time constraints and students, you can determine how many questions to select, and which questions to utilize.

The following questions have been provided in order to prompt dialogue, reflection, critical thinking, and ethical action. These questions will stimulate discussion of the book's content, as well as the reader's reaction to the content. It is our hope that they will serve as a launchpad for dialogue designed to arrive at a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding the Fireburn.

Questions

1. How was James feeling in the beginning of the story?
2. How do you feel when nobody wants to play or talk with you?
3. What can you do when you see someone that nobody wants to play with?
4. What does it mean when someone is lonely?
5. What is a bully?
6. What did the bullies do to James?
7. Why did James like history class?
8. What did you learn about the US Virgin Islands?
9. What is slavery?
10. What did James' teacher mean when she said that slavery was abolished?
11. What kind of treatment did the laborers experience after they were no longer enslaved?
12. How is the landowners' treatment of the laborers similar to bullying?
13. Who is Mary Thomas?
14. What did Mary Thomas do?
15. Why did the laborers fight the landowners?
16. What are human rights?
17. Why was James afraid of the bullies?
18. What happened to the bullies when Kenny and his friends came to James' rescue?
19. Why do you believe Kenny decided to help James?
20. What part of the book made you sad? Why?
21. What part of the book made you happy? Why?

Activities

Word Search Puzzle

L	N	F	N	H	P	N	E	P	A	M	S	P	H	S
L	N	R	S	G	H	E	S	S	L	L	I	V	M	L
Y	L	L	U	B	C	E	A	T	A	E	O	W	Q	A
F	K	V	N	B	H	U	W	C	Z	E	H	N	L	V
S	J	Y	I	A	E	Q	Y	X	E	T	T	S	E	E
S	I	T	T	R	K	R	H	T	U	R	T	P	Y	R
B	H	L	Y	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	E	R	Y
W	C	A	E	T	T	N	D	F	R	R	L	A	O	E
S	R	T	R	N	F	F	R	I	E	T	A	K	T	K
Y	K	U	V	E	T	E	A	V	T	R	W	X	S	N
E	T	M	Y	L	E	F	O	A	S	A	D	G	I	O
H	F	R	W	D	N	L	B	Z	N	Y	R	J	H	D
N	A	A	O	U	T	F	I	G	H	T	L	H	F	U
M	Q	M	S	W	N	Y	P	P	A	H	G	J	O	Q
P	R	S	E	M	A	J	C	C	O	U	R	A	G	E

Find these words:

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

- ✓ alone ✓ courage ✓ fight ✓ happy ✓ James ✓ queen ✓ safe ✓ slavery
- ✓ truth ✓ unity ✓ battle ✓ donkey ✓ freedom ✓ help ✓ Mary ✓ revolt
- ✓ share ✓ speak ✓ truth ✓ bully ✓ fireburn ✓ friends ✓ history ✓ peace
- ✓ sad ✓ silent ✓ tease ✓ unfair

Activities

Word Search Puzzle - Answer Sheet

L	N	F	N	H	P	N	E	P	A	M	S	P	H	S
L	N	R	S	G	H	E	S	S	L	L	I	V	M	L
Y	L	L	U	B	C	E	A	T	A	E	O	W	Q	A
F	K	V	N	B	H	U	W	C	Z	E	H	N	L	V
S	J	Y	I	A	E	Q	Y	X	E	T	T	S	E	E
S	I	T	T	R	K	R	H	T	U	R	T	P	Y	R
B	H	L	Y	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	E	R	Y
W	C	A	E	T	T	N	D	F	R	R	L	A	O	E
S	R	T	R	N	F	F	R	I	E	T	A	K	T	K
Y	K	U	V	E	T	E	A	V	T	R	W	X	S	N
E	T	M	Y	L	E	F	O	A	S	A	D	G	I	O
H	F	R	W	D	N	L	B	Z	N	Y	R	J	H	D
N	A	A	O	U	T	F	I	G	H	T	L	H	F	U
M	Q	M	S	W	N	Y	P	P	A	H	G	J	O	Q
P	R	S	E	M	A	J	C	C	O	U	R	A	G	E

Activities

Coloring



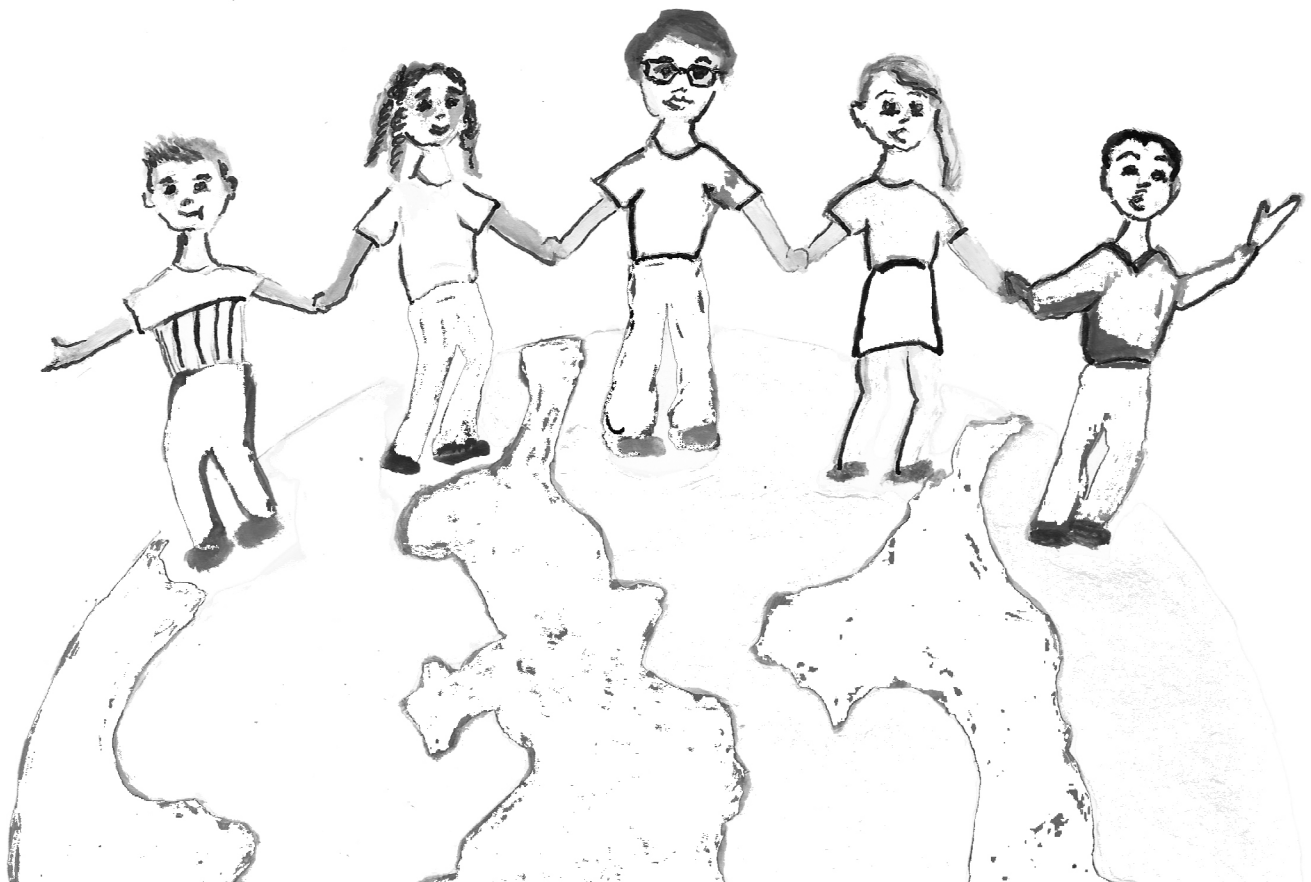
Activities

Coloring



Activities

Coloring

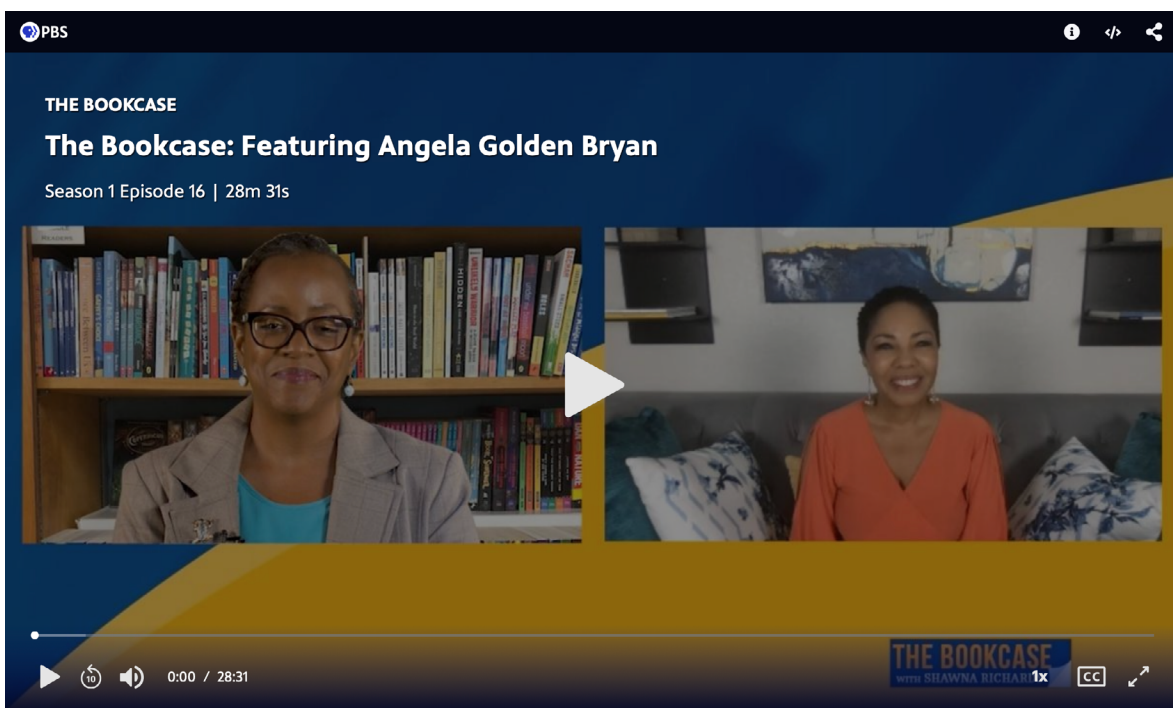


Activities

Read Along Video



PBS Interview



Queen Mary Folksong

Queen Mary, oh where you gon' go burn?
Queen Mary oh where you gon' go burn?
Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and oil.
Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.
Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and oil.
Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.
Queen Mary, oh where you gon' go burn?
Queen Mary, oh where you gon' go burn?
Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and
trash. Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.
Don't ask me nothin' at all. Just give me the match and
trash. Bassin Jailhouse, ah there the money there.
We gon' burn Bassin come down,
And when we reach the factory, we'll burn am level down.



While the author of the Queen Mary folk song is unknown, many islanders know the words. The song has several variations, as it has changed over the years while being passed down through the generations. People sing this folksong in celebration of the Queens of the 1878 Fireburn and their contributions to labor reform.

Acknowledgements & Credits

Writer: Angela Golden Bryan
Contributors: Dr. Cornelia Bertalanffy
Design Services by: filmmakerwebsites

With Funding from



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES



Contact

Fireburn
FOUNDATION, INC.

Fireburn Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 268212, Weston FL 33327
fireburnfoundation@gmail.com

FireburnFoundation.org

Make Your Tax Deductible Donation Today

>DONATE<