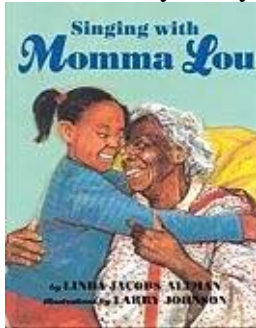


# Singing with Mama Lou

by Linda Jacobs Altman

Illustrated by Larry Johnson



## **Synopsis**

*Singing with Mama Lou* is a poignant and emotional story of a little girl's struggle to find a way to communicate with her grandmother, who is a victim of Alzheimer's disease. Follow Tamika and watch her grow, as she discovers the many hidden memories that belong to her loving grandmother. This book is rich in historical context regarding Civil Rights Movement. It opens the door for easy discussion about a disease facing many of our elderly.

## **Lessons**

Kwanzaa Principle- Kuumba meaning creativity

(Lessons adapted by Frances Waterman-O'Connell, from: *Teacher's Guide for the Black History Literature Collection* )

### **Grade Primary-3**

Curriculum Alignment by Natasha Nurse-Jones

**ELA GCO 1: Students will speak and listen to explore, clarify, extend, and reflect on their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences. GCO 2: Students will be able to communicate information and ideas effectively and clearly, and to respond personally and critically. GCO 6: Students will be expected to respond personally to a range of texts. GCO7: Students will be expected to respond critically to a range of texts, applying their knowledge of language, form, and genre.**

**Health: GCO A: demonstrate positive self-identity that effectively enables them to manage their health, relationships, and interactions with the world. GCO C: demonstrate effective communication and interpersonal skills that facilitate positive relationships between themselves and the world. Gr.P SCO (1.2) demonstrate an awareness that humans have a range of emotions and that it is normal and expected to feel a range of emotions.**

**Gr.P SCO (2.2) describe the role of family and ways in which their family impacts health.**

Have students bring in picture, newspapers articles, report cards, and awards that belong to older members of their families. Have them prepare a three to five minute presentation on why these possessions are important to their families.

**Language/Character Development**

Have students create an emotional event timeline for Tamika as she struggles to help her grandmother and better understand her own emotions.

Insert a list of character traits.

**Grade 4-6**

Have students make a Venn Diagram of Grandmother when she was a young woman and Grandmother with Alzheimer's. Compare and discuss.

Use large hearts that have preprinted lines on them. Ask Children to describe the event in the story that made the characters feel the emotions stated.

Connect the hearts in a circle of love for each student and display. This story provides teachers with a wonderful opportunity to speak about the circle of life and how remembering our loved ones and their accomplishments keeps them alive in our memories.

**Science**

**Grades 4-9**

Have students work in small groups and do a presentation on what Alzheimer's disease is. Who is affected? How do patients deteriorate over time?

Then have the students, based on their research, design a 24- hour plan of care for a patient.

Contact a Canadian Alzheimer's group on the Internet and they will be pleased to send you materials regarding the care and understanding of Alzheimer's

**Follow Up**

Have students read the story to younger grades and respond to their younger peers' questions.