

# Teaching Historical Racial Traumas

**DR. MARCUS JOHNSON**  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

**CORINNE GUIMONT**  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

**DR. JASON HIGGINS**  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



# Project Overview & Progress

The *Teaching Historical Racial Trauma (THRT)* project aims to empower K–12 educators by creating an open-access digital platform featuring peer-reviewed essays, expert interviews, and curricular resources that address historical racial trauma and related misconceptions.

Across the 2024-2025 academic year, a total of 6 interviews were conducted with the lead authors of all 6 peer-reviewed essays. Three student interns were hired and gained mentoring and experiences with copyediting the essays and converting them into digital pages using Wordpress and ArcGIS. Progress has been made towards publishing the digital platform, with half of the essay pages completed at the time of this report.



# Library Collaboration

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Use of Newman 127  
Media Studio



Use of Riverside  
platform & audio  
recording devices



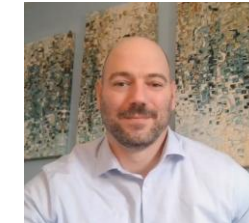
Weekly Office Hours in  
Publishing Suite



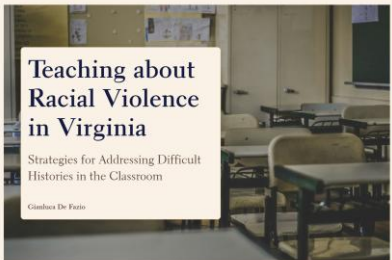
Transfer digital  
materials to VT  
Publishing Servers



Use of ArcGIS and  
WordPress to draft  
essay pages



Teaching about Racial Violence in Virginia



## Teaching about Racial Violence in Virginia

Strategies for Addressing Difficult Histories in the Classroom

Claudia De Fazio


Introduction | Lyrching in Virginia | Teaching Hard History | English Lesson Plan

### Introduction

Teaching the difficult history of lynching requires a sensitive and informed approach, particularly when dealing with local incidents that may still resonate within a community. This essay provides pedagogical strategies for integrating the history of lynching in Virginia into classroom instruction. By drawing on specific case studies and contextualizing them within broader national trends, educators can help students understand the complexities of racial violence and the importance of historical memory in addressing contemporary issues of racial justice.



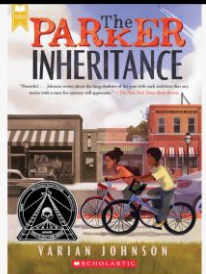
Teaching about Racial Violence in Virginia



## Lyrching in Virginia

Since the end of the Civil War, anti-lynching legislation passed in the United States has been largely unenforced. In the United States, the history of lynching is a dark and painful chapter of American history. In Virginia, the history of lynching is particularly troubling, as it was a common form of racial violence in the state for decades. This essay explores the history of lynching in Virginia, from its roots in the antebellum South to its decline in the early 20th century. It also examines the impact of lynching on the lives of Black people in Virginia and the role of the state in perpetuating this form of violence. Finally, the essay discusses the importance of teaching about lynching in Virginia and the challenges of doing so in a classroom setting.

Unpacking Racial Trauma in Children's Fiction



## Unpacking Racial Trauma in Children's Fiction

Mourning as Legacy in The Parker Inheritance

Rachelle Kuehl  
March 29, 2025

Introduction | Understanding the Context | Experiencing Racial Empathy Th... | Depictions of Historical Ra...

### Introduction

Children's literature has the power to address complex and sensitive topics, including racial trauma. Building upon the existential lenses through which the previous essay examined the enduring impacts of racism and discrimination, the attention now shifts to the realm of fiction, particularly middle-grade literature, to explore how stories can serve as both mirrors and windows for young readers. This essay delves into Varian Johnson's *The Parker Inheritance*, a middle-grade novel that skillfully unpacks complex themes of racial trauma and historical injustice to illuminate the importance of addressing these themes in educational settings. By analyzing the literary elements and pedagogical potential of the book, this chapter provides educators with strategies to incorporate discussions of racial trauma into their

# Experiential Learning for Students



# Panel/Discussion Event and Focus Group

## Understanding the Longevity, Historical, and Intergenerational Nature of Traumas



Join us for a half-day symposium exploring the lasting impacts of trauma across generations. This event will feature a faculty panel discussion on displacement, racial, relational, and natural disaster-related traumas, followed by small-group discussions where participants can engage in meaningful conversations.

**29 APRIL 2025, 9:00AM - 1:00PM**  
**Room 207A, Newman Library**

Together, we'll examine how trauma is transmitted, how it shapes individuals and communities, and how we can work toward healing and resilience. Attendees will be able to connect with resources for further learning and support.

**Lunch will be provided!**

Register Here:



[forms.gle/M69iMfkiS7gh1u3w8](https://forms.gle/M69iMfkiS7gh1u3w8)

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 **VIRGINIA TECH. PUBLISHING**  
VIRGINIA TECH

## Photovoice

### Share Your Story Through Images



We invite you to contribute to photos to center your voice, experience, and perspective. Photovoice is a creative and reflective way to share your story using photographs. You are invited to upload one or more images that are personally meaningful to you in relation to trauma, healing, resilience, identity, or intergenerational stories. These can be photos you've taken yourself, images from your personal archive, or symbolic representations of emotions, moments, or transformations.

### Instructions

Choose a photo or series of photos: Consider an image that speaks to:

- A moment of challenge, resilience, or healing
- A symbol of your experience or identity
- Something that connects to your family's or community's story
- Anything else that feels relevant to your understanding of trauma and transformation

Add a brief reflection (~3-5 sentences): You might consider:

- Why did you choose this image?
- What does it represent to you?
- How does it relate to your experience or journey?

You may choose to provide your name or use a pseudonym to remain anonymous.



<https://forms.gle/mYY6rzSPEV69cVgJA>

