

2012 Suggestions for Teaching *All the Way* by Robert Schenkkan

Before seeing/reading the play

1. Research John F. Kennedy and John Connally. What major event in U.S. history took place on November 22, 1963? These and other websites provide information:
www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Connally
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_John_F._Kennedy
2. Who was Lyndon Baines Johnson (LBJ)? Research his life prior to November 22, 1963. These and other websites provide information:
www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/generic/People_Leaders_Johnson.htm
www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/biographys.hom/lbj_bio.asp
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson
3. Research the history of the Democratic and Republican Parties in the United States. Particularly note moments in both parties' timelines that revolve around the issues of slavery and civil rights. These and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_Democratic_Party
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/US_Republican_Party
4. What are Jim Crow Laws? What is a Dixiecrat? These and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jim_Crow_laws
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/dixiecrat>
5. Who was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.? Research his life and involvement in the United States Civil Rights Movement. These and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.
<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/hum/mlk/srs216.html>
http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1964/king-bio.html

6. Define 'civil rights'. Explore the background of the United States Civil Rights Movement leading up to 1964. What year did African Americans get the vote? What was LBJ's stand on Civil Rights? Pay special attention to the impact and the failings of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. These and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_rights_movement
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1957
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifteenth_Amendment_to_the_United_States_Constitution
7. Research the Civil Rights Act of 1964. What was the voting rights provision? This and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1964
8. Research the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. This and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_Opportunity_Act_of_1964
9. Research the 1964 presidential election. These and other websites provide information:
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/1590354/United-States-presidential-election-of-1964>
<http://www.npr.org/2004/11/02/4139094/the-landslide-election-of-1964>
10. What is the Southern Christian Leadership Conference? Who were its leaders? What happened during the Birmingham Campaign of 1963? These and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Christian_Leadership_Conference
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham_campaign
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King_Jr.
11. What happened at Birmingham's 16 Street Baptist Church on September 15, 1963? This and other websites provide information:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/16th_Street_Baptist_Church_bombing
12. Research the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Who were its leaders in 1964? These and other websites provide information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Student_Nonviolent_Coordinating_Committee
<http://www.ibiblio.org/sncc/>

13. What is the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)? Who were its leaders in 1964? These and other websites provide information:

www.naacp.org/pages/naacp-history
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Wilkins

14. What kind of pressure or obstacles did President Johnson encounter from Bob Moses, Fannie Lou Hamer, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and its Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party? These and other websites provide information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Parris_Moses
<http://www.beejae.com/hamer.htm>
www.ibiblio.org/sncc/mfdp.html
www.usm.edu/crdp/html/cd/mfdp.htm
www.ibiblio.org/sncc/moses.html

15. What kind of pressure or obstacles did President Johnson encounter from the Southern Caucus of the U.S. Congress? Pay special attention to four congressmen who appear in the play: Senator Dick Russell, Senator Strom Thurmond, Senator Jim Eastland and Representative Judge Smith. These and other websites provide information:

www.congresslink.org/civilrights/1964.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Rights_Act_of_1964

16. Research the following people and their relationships to President Johnson: Walter Jenkins, Richard Russell, Hubert Humphrey, Robert (Bobby) Kennedy, Barry Goldwater, Katherine Graham, Everett Dirksen. These and other websites provide information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Jenkins
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Russell,_Jr.
http://www.school-for-champions.com/history/how_lyndon_johnson_vetted_humphrey.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hubert_Humphrey
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_F._Kennedy

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_Goldwater

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katherine_Graham

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Everett_Dirksen

17. Research Lady Bird Johnson. What did she accomplish prior to her husband becoming president? What did she accomplish as First Lady? These and other websites provide information:

http://www.lbjlib.utexas.edu/johnson/archives.hom/biographys.hom/ladybird_bio.asp

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady_Bird_Johnson

18. Who was J. Edgar Hoover? What was his relationship to President Johnson? To Dr. Martin Luther King? These and other websites provide information:

<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/history/directors/hover>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._Edgar_Hoover

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2002/07/the-fbi-and-martin-luther-king/2537/

19. Research the Agricultural Bill. This and other websites provide information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_and_Agricultural_Act_of_1965

20. Research the Freedom Summer. These and other websites provide information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_Summer

http://www.core-online.org/History/freedom_summer.htm

21. Research Georgia Governor George Wallace and his 1964 campaign for the Democratic Presidential Nomination. These and other websites provide information:

http://www.archives.state.al.us/govs_list/g_wallac.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Wallace

22. What is the House Rules Committee and how does it operate? This and other websites provide information:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_House_Committee_on_Rules

23. What is a Senate Filibuster? What is cloture? What is a discharge petition? These and other websites provide information:

http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Filibuster_Clature.t
[m](http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Filibuster_Clature.t)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filibuster#United_States

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discharge_petition

24. What was America's involvement in Vietnam during the early 60s and how did it escalate in the summer of 1964? These and other websites provide information:

www.vietnamgear.com/war1963.aspx

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gulf_of_Tonkin_incident

After seeing/reading the play

1. Refer to your research on LBJ's public stance on Civil Rights. Compare LBJ's public statements on race and race relations to his private comments in the play. To what extent do they coincide, and to what extent do they conflict? How strongly do you feel President Johnson felt about the importance of equal rights for African Americans? To what extent, based on your research and the evidence in the play, did he believe in complete equality of the races?
2. To what extent are J. Edgar Hoover's tactics of wiretapping and of blackmailing people like James Harrison and Joe Alsop legal? Ethical? How much leeway did the FBI have in 1964 in matters deemed to relate to national security? What is the status of these issues concerning civilian surveillance today, in 2012?
3. J. Edgar Hoover believed in keeping America safe. To that end, he broke laws that he was sworn to uphold. In what ways did his breaking laws destroy people's lives? President Johnson may have broken some laws early in his political career. He certainly bent the rules and used every tactic he knew in the political playbook, ethical or not. The result was landmark and lasting Civil Rights legislation. Does the end ever justify the means? Does your answer depend on whether you side with the "end" in question? If the end can sometimes justify the means, where, exactly, does that line get drawn? Who gets to decide?
4. What characters in the play have their personal lives compromised in the name of public service? To what extent does a person's private life impact their ability to serve their country in public office? Does your opinion change if that person uses their

public office to try to legislate morality and public standards in ways that are not consistent with their private life?

5. Refer to your research on Dixiecrats. Discuss what Senator Russell means when he says “It’s high time the south rejoined the rest of the country.” In what ways might the south have felt like a separate entity from the rest of the United States?
6. Describe the ideological rift that split the Democratic Party in 1964. How does that split still affect the party today? In what ways might the Republican Party be dealing with a similar ideological split in 2012?
7. Compare and contrast MLK with LBJ. How are the two men similar? Different? What motivates them? What strategies do they use to get what they want? Describe their individual accomplishments throughout the play. Describe their failures.
8. Discuss LBJ’s character: his strengths and weaknesses, his hopes and fears, his ethics and immoralities. What type of president was he? What type of leader? What in the play leads you to believe he should hold the most powerful office of the United States? What leads you to doubt it?
9. When in the play is LBJ most vulnerable? When, of these moments, is Lady Bird present, and what do these scenes reveal about the Johnson’s relationship?
10. The final line of the play, “It’s just getting started ”is spoken by LBJ and George Wallace. What is just getting started for each of these men?
11. If you are seeing *Henry V*, compare LBJ to King Henry. How do these two leaders wield power? What does each one feel is their responsibility to the people they govern? To their country’s futures? What difficult decisions does each have to make and what are the results of those decisions?

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