

THE CAMPBELL HOUSE MUSEUM

WOMEN'S LETTERS - THE WOMEN OF CAMPBELL HOUSE: LUCY ANN KYLE & VIRGINIA KYLE CAMPBELL

Focus: Analysis, discussion, and role-playing

Getting Started: What is a strong person? What woman in your family or other parts of your life do you consider strong? Create a list of the characteristics of these strong women. The Campbell House became home to two remarkably strong women: Virginia Kyle Campbell and her mother Lucy Kyle.

Classroom Activities:

Analysis:

Part I

Read the biographical sketch of Lucy Kyle and the excerpt of her letter to her daughter Virginia.

Re-read these materials and identify the characteristics that show Lucy Kyle to be a very strong person. Make a list. Remember that the man called Otey is married to Lucy Kyle's older daughter.

Part II

Now read the biographical sketch of Virginia Kyle Campbell. Go back over the biographical sketch on Virginia and identify and list the characteristics you notice that show her to be a very strong person. Look at both lists. What characteristics of these two women could be specifically be related to the concept of seeking justice? Explain and discuss.

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA3, CA4, SS6, SS7; 1.5, 1.6, 2.3, 4.1

Discussion and Conclusion:

Reread the excerpt from Lucy Ann Kyle's letter. Individually or in groups, respond to this excerpt as if you were Virginia Campbell. Share responses.

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA3, CA6, SS6; 1.5, 2.3, 3.5, 4.1

Creative Writing and Performance:

(Variation on concluding activity) Imagine that Virginia Campbell has just received the letter from her mother. After reviewing the materials, write a one or two page monologue in which Virginia expresses her feelings regarding this information.

Include a few stage directions. Select someone to present the monologue as a reading.

Afterwards, discuss the impact of the history-based monologue. (NOTE: several different monologues could be presented. Compare and contrast)

MO Show-Me Standards/Goals: CA4, CA5, SS6, FA1, FA5; 1.5, 2.1, 2.4, 2.5, 3.2