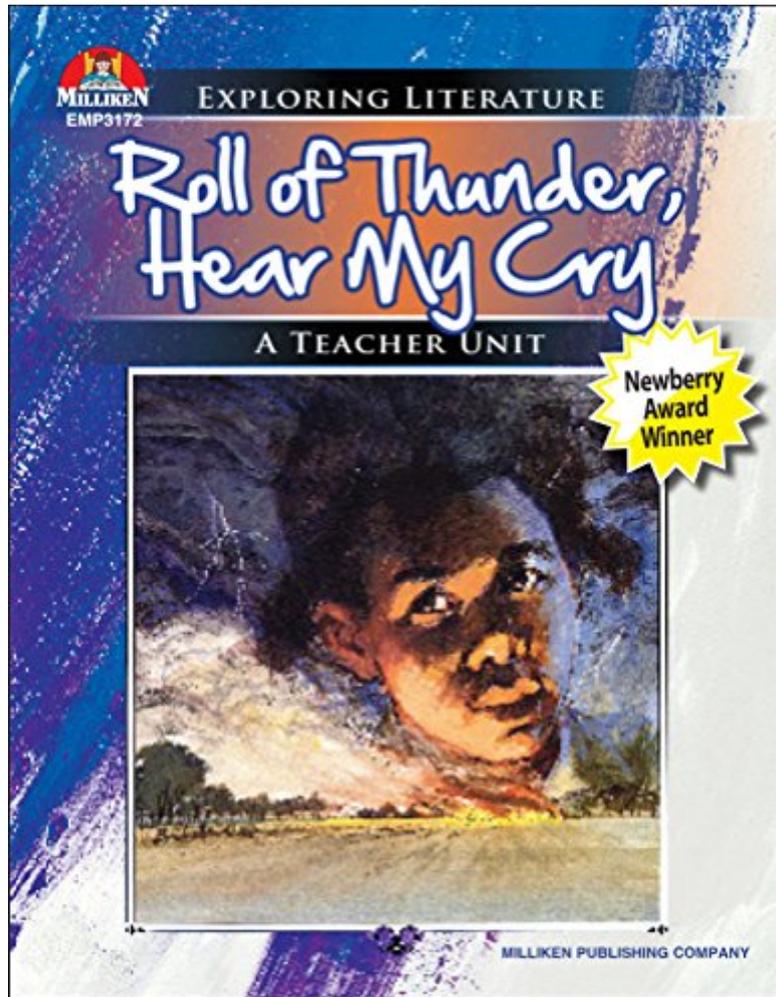


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# Roll Of Thunder, Hear My Cry (Exploring Literature Teaching Unit)



## Synopsis

Exploring Literature is a complete teaching unit designed to give you everything needed to help students understand and appreciate fine literature. This exciting approach includes classroom-tested activities sure to save you hours of valuable preparation time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Teaching in a primarily white school district(which is just a fact, not a problem), I enjoy teaching novels that bring knowledge of various groups' struggles, beliefs, and similarities that lead to the fact that "we are not as different as some choose to think." In teaching Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird, I felt that my students felt sorry for Tom Robinson, but we needed to have a better understanding of where Tom was coming from. The two novels are very similar in settings, themes, point of view being that of a young girl, conflicts, and overall emotional impact they have on their readers. Kids love Little Man's strength that stretches beyond his size. They admire Stacey's confidence and loyalty to his family, friends, and people. Readers view T.J. with hatred, then confusion, and finally sympathy to this lost child...who can be compared with Harper Lee's Tom Robinson. Many of my students can relate to Jeremy Simms, who respects & enjoys the Logan

family more than his own. And then there's Cassie, the narrator. Kids find Cassie to be the most complex of the Logans. Taylor presents Cassie as someone who is naive to discrimination (for lack of a better term). Often my students would write that they wished they could jump into the pages of the text and explain to Cassie what was going on so they could save her from further problems, as we see Big Ma do. My kids also wanted to just "give her a big hug." This book is a great read aloud & the sequels to follow are good as well. Let the Circle be Unbroken is #2 and also goes well with Harper's Tom Robinson's fate. The Road to Memphis is #3 and good as well, although I found the first two the best!

There have been so many great reviews for this book, I can't really say much that hasn't been touched on. However, in response to the two reviews before me, I cannot possibly see their point-of-view. Roll of Thunder reads very much like a fourth grader's work, in the sense that the narrator is nine years old. Taylor is \*brilliant\* at giving Cassie credibility as a narrator and the reader is privileged to see the events of the story through her eyes. I love every page of this book and have read it over again a hundred times. The "slow" opening actually gives us a clear picture of the setting and the character traits of those people who shape Cassie's world. I do not understand how people can not see this. I read this book on my own in third grade, and read it in school in eighth grade, so I think it has a good range of ages. I'm in college and I still like re-reading it. There are a lot of good themes/issues to explore with your kids or students if you read this book with them.

Mildred D. Taylor's Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is a beautifully told tale spoken with the fine voice of its young narrator, Cassie Logan. It is the story of the Logan family and their struggle to maintain both their small piece of land and their dignity in one tumultuous year, two things not permitted a black family in Mississippi in the early decades of this century. The author brilliantly captures the times of which she writes but, even more important, captures the people she writes about. There are not characters here who can be simply called victims or survivors or fighters or any other single term. These are fully developed personalities, particularly the children, that speak with authentic and complicated voices and spool out a tale that is heart breaking with equal parts despair and hope. A wonderful book for children.

In a word I can describe this book as amazing. This book is about the Logans—a Black family—living in Mississippi in the 1930's who overcome racial segregation and bias, struggle to stand up to their white neighbors, and fight to keep their land. The land is the center of the Logans' love toward each

other. Their land is what holds the family together and keeps them from spreading apart. The story is written in Cassie's-the main character-point of view and how she sees things. Taylor does a great job in maneuvering Cassie so she can overhear certain conversations that are important to the books development of the conflict, and the resolution. Throughout the novel the Logans go through a Bus accident, a little girl that finally gets her revenge, and a great sacrifice that no one will ever forget. I was introduced to this book when it was assigned as a literature study in my English class. Though I, along with others, groaned when the assignment was made, I have greatly taken that moan back. Once I started, I couldn't stop. The author's suspense, humor, setting, and a great use of southern dialect for the dialogue make this book a hard one to put down. Though I have only read this book once, I plan to read it many, many times in the future. Take my advice, this book is unbelievable. Don't let the dust gather on it too much longer; it deserves to be read and cherished.

I read Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor years ago as a college student studying to be a teacher. Reading it again with my sixth grade students reinforced my belief that Mildred Taylor is perhaps one of the best children's authors we have today. Everyone from age 10 to 99 should read this book. The story centers around the Logan family, an African American family struggling to survive in the turmoil of the 1930's. There are many reasons I love this book. The characters are well developed and believable. We come to know Cassie Logan, the main character and narrator of the book, as she confronts the harsh realities of discrimination. Mildred Taylor created an extremely likable character of Jeremy, a white boy who rejects his own family's behavior toward the Logan family. The plot unfolds slowly, almost deliberately, to provide us with the time to prepare for the stunning climax. One of the most memorable scenes is when the Logan children visit Mr. Berry, a man badly burned by three white men simply because of the color of his skin. Mildred Taylor's description is often difficult to read and yet necessary in order to gain a better understanding of the destruction hatred causes. Although I've never felt this kind of discrimination firsthand, I am grateful to Mildred Taylor for giving me the opportunity to open my eyes to the dark realities that existed back then and indeed, still exist today. Read this book slowly, carefully and again and again. You will not be the same after reading this extraordinary novel.

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