

I'm from Nova Scotia

Andrea Noylander-Marsman and Ahnaleigh Simmonds

Word count: 152

(p. 3, not including the caption)

Overview

With the help of her grandmother, 12-year-old Ahnaleigh Simmonds explores her family heritage and the history of African Nova Scotians. The text includes interviews with two African Nova Scotians.

Genre/Text Types

Non-fiction/Retell, Report, Interview

Text Features

Boldface type, captions, coloured type, fact boxes, glossary, headings, map with legend, photos, sidebars, table of contents

Connection

Social Studies

Contributions of Diverse Cultural Groups to the Evolution of Canada

Vocabulary

Words that might require clarification include *activist*, *artifacts*, *combatants*, *descendants*, *descent* (ancestry), *embrace* (figurative usage), *emerged*, *first cousin once removed*, *inequality*, *influential*, *inspired/inspiring*, *journalism*, *legal aid*, *petition* (verb), *plantations*, *preservation*, *regal*, *slavery*, *vibrant*, and *vital*. Additional words are defined in the glossary.

Providing Background Information

Before reading, consider briefly introducing students to the American Revolution and War of 1812. This will help to provide historical context for the migrations of the Black Loyalists (1782–1785) and Freedom Fighters (1813–1815) to Nova Scotia. You might summarize the main ideas in a chart to refer to as a class while reading the book.

eBook Activities

Predicting (page 5); **Using Text Features** (page 9); **Inferring** (page 19)

Extensions

Summarizing: Write a paragraph to summarize what Ahnaleigh learns about her family and the history of Black people in Nova Scotia. What important information should you include in your summary?

Synthesizing: Why was it important to Ahnaleigh to learn about her family history? How does learning about her family history help shape her sense identity—her sense of who she is?

Analyzing and Evaluating: **AT HOME** One piece of advice Floyd Kane has for children is “to believe in yourself.” What does it mean to believe in yourself? Jot some ideas at home. In class, work in a small group to share and compare your ideas. See if your group can agree on an explanation of what “believing in yourself” means.

