

Freedom Summer

Just For Fun Rating (0-5): Age Range: 4+ years

Diversity Themes: Race/Ethnicity

Potential Questions/Comments:

1. *What do you think about Joe & John Henry’s friendship? Do you have any friendships like that?*
2. *Do you think that Joe did enough to help John Henry? Was there more that he could have done? Why or why not?*
3. *Why do you think Joe’s views are different from others in his town?*
4. *How do you think John Henry felt after seeing the swimming pool? How do you think Joe felt? If you were Joe, what would you do or say?*
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Continuing the Conversation

Are there situations that exist today that are similar to the one that John Henry faced with the swimming pool? The laws are different and the discrimination is not as overt, but it still exists. What are some examples? Do you know any Black people or other people of color who do not swim or have a history of people in their family who don’t swim? What are your thoughts about Simone Manuel and her Olympic gold? Do some research with your child about the history of people of color and swimming pools in America. Write a letter to Simone Manuel and other Black swimmers. Examine swim teams in your area - are there people of color on them? Examine why the team looks the way it does.

