

CILIP KATE GREENAWAY SHORTLIST 2020 SHADOWING RESOURCES

KWAME ALEXANDER ★ KADIR NELSON

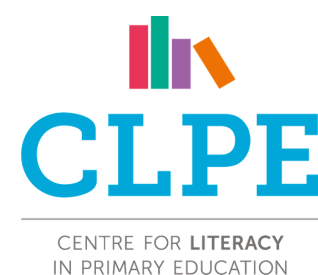
#UNDEFEATED



The CILIP Carnegie
& Kate Greenaway
Children's Book
Awards



Inclusive Minds



English
& Media
centre

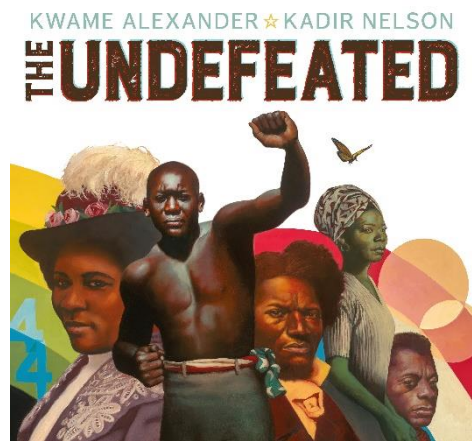
CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal 2020 VISUAL LITERACY NOTES

Title: The Undeclared

Illustrator: **Kadir Nelson**

Author: Kwame Alexander

Publisher: Walker Books



Shadows' Views

Shadowing the Kate Greenaway shortlist requires you to look very carefully at artwork in order to form a judgment about it. The word **view** can refer to both what can you see, and to your opinions. You are looking for a book that 'creates an outstanding reading experience through illustration'.

First look

The Undeclared, is a poem by Kwame Alexander made into a vibrant picturebook by the addition of superb paintings by Kadir Nelson. The poem honours black history in America; acknowledging pain and injustice, highlighting courage and resilience, and celebrating achievement. Remember you are judging the visual texts, especially the illustrations – but also all other visual aspects of the book. The paintings, almost all portraits, are presented on plain white pages. Some are individuals, some groups and others a combination of faces representing success in different fields. At the end of the poem, you can read about the people who are in the portraits.

First Look with Shadows

Share the book, reading the poem aloud and lingering over the portraits on each page but with no further comment.

Ask the Shadows:

- what impact the book made on them on first reading
- what they know about Civil Rights in the USA
- to chat about the names and portraits they recognise in the book.

Listen to the author, Kwame Alexander, performing the poem here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzkTBplxz_E

Look again

- Find the only double page that has no picture. Why is that?
- Find three pages containing: **This is for the unspeakable.**
What is different about the illustrations on those pages?

Listen to Martin Luther King deliver his famous speech 'I Have a Dream':

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP4iY1TtS3s



Consider all the visual aspects of the book i.e. afterword, font choices, title page and layout. How do these 'extras' to the story contribute to the overall impact of the book?

Interpreting the texts

It is always beneficial, when studying a book, to introduce tasks that require imaginative responses. Reading a true story can inspire curiosity and empathy. Research activities could encourage such response. The following suggestions may help shadowers to engage with the book.

Meet Kadir Nelson

The illustrator of *The Undeclared* is Kadir Nelson. He is a popular artist, known for the quality of his portraits. On his website www.kadirnelson.com he says that art should be 'reflecting the innermost beauty and divinity of the human spirit'. The portraits in the book certainly feel real. They inspire an emotional response. How do the paintings convey the human spirit?

Presentation

Author of *The Undeclared*, Kwame Alexander is a performance poet. Shadowers could work in small groups to give a performance of *The Undeclared*. Perhaps projecting pictures on screen for the audience to see as they listen.

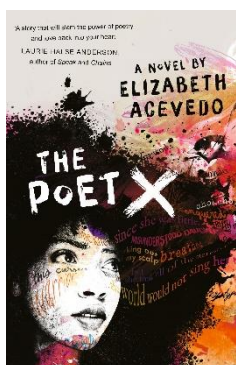
Research

The Undeclared offers manifold possibilities for further research.

- The first picture in the book is of Jesse Owens – a winner of four Olympic gold medals at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Research what events Jesse Owens won and some of the attitudes that were held about sports and race at this time?
- Encourage each shadower to choose one person featured in the book to read about and research.
- Find recordings of the world famous singers and musicians who appear in the book. For example, Billie Holiday, Miles Davis and Louis Armstrong.
- Learn about the Black Lives Matter Movement by visiting: <https://blacklivesmatter.com/>



Read more



If you enjoyed *The Undeclared* you may like to explore the 2019 Carnegie Medal winner, *The Poet X*, a novel in verse by Elizabeth Acevedo.

FURTHER THINKING

CILIP works in partnership with Amnesty International and Inclusive Minds to raise awareness and understanding of the importance of human rights, inclusion and representation in children's literature. The discussion points below are intended to further stimulate reader's thinking on the themes explored in the shortlisted books.

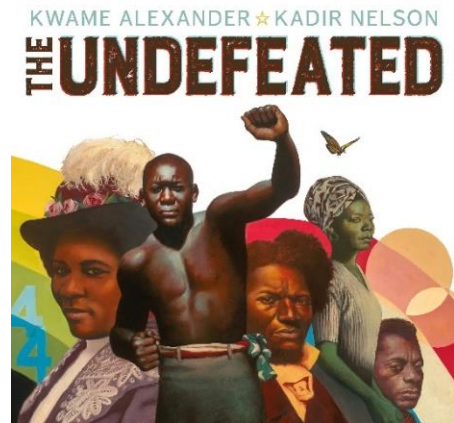
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Title: The Undefeated

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Discussing human rights in this story:

Right to equality; Right to life; Freedom from slavery; Right to defend our rights; Right to education and information; Right to safety; Right to a fair trial

- Kwame Alexander writes that 'so much of American history' has been 'forgotten' and 'left out' of textbooks. Whose stories are left out of your education?
- Whose stories are forgotten or ignored by the media? What impact does this have on you?
- What do you know about the role of your region in the Transatlantic Slave Trade?



Discussing inclusion and representation in this story:

- Were there any particular achievements detailed in the book that stood out for you and why?
- Had you heard of all the people included in this book? Why do you think that might be?
- Are any events truly unspeakable? Consider the importance of speaking about difficult events. What do you know about the unspeakable events referenced in the book?



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TEACHING NOTES FROM CLPE COMING SOON

