

I, Barbara Jordan

The Ensemble Theatre

Grades: 4-12

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

I, Barbara Jordan celebrates the remarkable life and career of the eminent Texas orator, legislator, and teacher. Barbara Jordan's journey is traced from her childhood in Houston's Fifth Ward neighborhood through her election to the United States' Congress. I, Barbara Jordan introduces students to the legendary Texas politician who was a model for the power of perseverance.

TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills):

	Theatre	Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	The Student Will:
4	4.3, 4.5	4.1, 4.11	4.1	4.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Demonstrate appropriate etiquette during live performances. * Appreciate cultural diversity. * Practice listening and speaking. * Investigate social issues. * Explore and define concepts in government. * Write original reports, stories, poems, and other forms.
5	5.4, 5.5	5.1, 5.11	5.1	5.14, 5.15	
6	MS 3, 4, 5	6.1, 6.10	6.2	6.9, 6.10	
7		7.1, 7.10	7.2	7.13, 7.14	
8		8.1, 8.10	8.2	8.16, 8.17,	
H.S.	3, 4	Eng I.1, 9	Alg/Geometry	US Gov.	

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness):

Writing

Grade 4, 7

Recording Category 1

(10) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts--writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions.

Social Studies

Reporting Category 3

Grade 8

(17) Government. The student understands the dynamic nature of the powers of the national government and state governments in a federal system.

(19) Citizenship. The student understands the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States.

Academic Vocabulary:

Orator

A public speaker, especially one who is eloquent or skilled.

Legislator	*A person who makes laws, a member of a legislative body; a senator or congressperson.
Houston's Fifth Ward	*A historical and political community of Houston, Texas, about 2 miles northeast of downtown. After World War II, a wave of African Americans settled the ward. In the 1970's, it was considered one of the most violent and poverty-stricken areas in Houston. By 2015, the fifth ward was about half Black and half Latino.
Civil rights	*The rights of citizens to political and social freedom and equality.
Minimum wage	*The lowest wage permitted by law or by a special agreement (such as one with a labor union). Because minimum wages increase the cost of labor, companies may try to avoid minimum wage laws by using gig workers, moving labor to locations with lower or nonexistent minimum wages, or by automating job functions.
Gig workers	*Independent contractors, online platform workers, contract firm workers, on-call workers, and temporary workers. These people do not receive a regular salary but are paid by the "gig" or one job at a time. Employers are not required to pay Federal Withholding tax for these workers, nor provide them with health insurance and other benefits.
Antidiscrimination practices	*Discrimination laws protect people from being treated differently, given opportunity differently, or serviced differently based on their color, race, national origin, religion, gender, or disability.
Fair Employment Practices	*Hiring practices that are fair, merit-based, and non-discriminatory.

CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Before the performance

- What do you know about Barbara Jordan?
- What do you know about civil rights?
- What do you know about antidiscrimination practices?



After the performance:

- What did you learn from the presentation?
- Write, draw, tell, sing, dance, or act out your favorite part.

Language Arts:

- Write a story, poem, song, rap, or chant about Barbara Jordan.
- Write a story, poem, song, rap, or chant about civil rights, anti-discrimination practices, or other concepts from the presentation.

Math:

- Compare the minimum wage over U.S. history.
- Compare the differences in wages for men and women.
- Compare the differences in wages for white people and persons of color.
- Compare the difference in hiring a gig worker or an employee.

Social Studies:

- Discover more about the Civil Rights Movement.
- Find out about current social issues and the viewpoints of different groups.

Resources:

More about Barbara Jordan:

<https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/barbara-jordan>

Civil rights:

<https://factfile.org/10-facts-about-civil-rights-movement>

<http://www.american-historama.org/1945-1989-cold-war-era/civil-rights-movement-facts.htm>

Facts about discrimination practices:

<https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-racial-discrimination>

<https://facts.net/history/culture/gender-inequality-facts#:~:text=1%2018%20countries%20legally%20allow%20husbands%20to%20prevent,and%20women%20have%20endured%20female%20genital%20mutilation%20%28FGM%29.>

<https://www.aarp.org/work/on-the-job/info-2017/age-discrimination-facts.html>

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

The Ensemble Theatre was founded in 1976 by the late George Hawkins to preserve African American artistic expression and enlighten, entertain, and enrich a diverse community. The Ensemble is one of the only professional theatres in the region dedicated to the production of works portraying the African American experience, the oldest and largest professional African American theatre in the Southwest and holds the distinction of being one of the nation's largest African American theatres owning and operating its facility and producing in-house. The programs and operations of The Ensemble Theatre benefit a multicultural audience that is diverse in age, income, ethnicity, and culture. Through its varied programs, The Ensemble reaches over 60,000 people annually.