




# Muslim American Authors in the English III Curriculum

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Kannapolis City Schools  
Kannapolis, North Carolina



# What I Wanted My Project to Accomplish

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- I wanted something that would be easy for my colleagues to implement.
- To present these texts as a part of the literary, thematic, and American nature of the units first, that just so happen to be from a Muslim American.

# My Goal

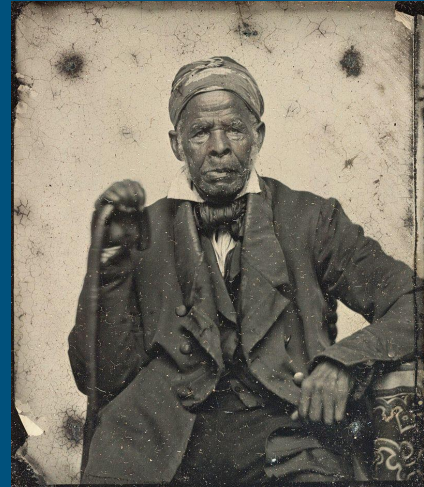
For my project I went through the existing units in the Kannapolis City Schools English III curriculum map and found places to insert Muslim American voices into each of them.



# The Beginnings

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- One of the larger units, “The Beginnings” includes many texts from the beginning of the US focusing on how the literature of the period reflects the culture.
- This includes slave narratives.
- Putting Omar ibn Sayyid’s autobiography alongside Frederick Douglas makes a ton of sense thematically.
- Also, the fact that his experiences took place in the Carolinas would give our students a geographical connection to the text.



[Reading Guide](#)

# Transcendentalism

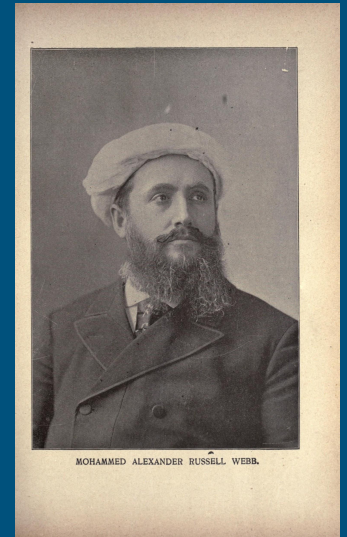
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- The focus of this unit is on the concept of Individualism.
- Typically we would spend most of our time reading Emerson and Thoreau.
- This is the perfect place to insert

Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb's

Islam in America (1893)

Reading Guide



# The American Dream

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- The American Dream unit is built around a reading of A Raisin in the Sun by Lorraine Hansberry.
- I think this would be the perfect place to insert Abdo Elkholy's The Arab Moslems in the United States (1966).
- The liquor store connection may seem superficial, but I think it can lead to a very interesting discussion of the physical and moral sacrifices that should or shouldn't be made to achieve one's goal or "dream."

[Reading Guide](#)

# Civil Rights

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- Our Civil Rights unit includes King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail and the Ballot or Bullet speech from Malcolm X.
- Because the Malcolm X selection comes after his separation from The Nation of Islam, I think the best thing to do is to include an NOI voice in the unit.
- What the Muslims Want and What the Muslims Believe by Elijah Muhammad would be a straightforward/easy to understand piece to show the differences between the integration vs separation arguments.

