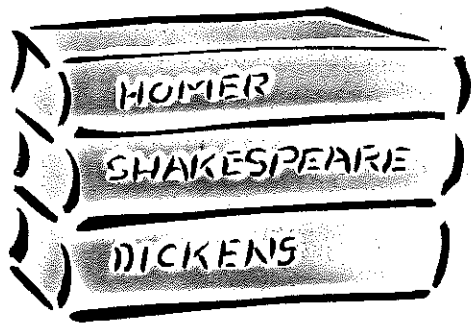


Teaching the Marva Collins Way

Segregation, or separation based on race, was a fact of life when Marva Collins was born in 1936. But through hard work and a belief in her own abilities, she rose to be one of the most prominent educators in the United States.



young as ten to read classics by Shakespeare, Dickens, and Homer. (4) Her students also studied such *sages* as the ancient Greek philosophers Socrates and Plato. Using the Socratic method, Collins began her instruction with a question that encouraged children to think independently. (5) This strategy enabled students to *clarify* the logic behind their thoughts. (6) When they expressed themselves, Collins could correct *misconceptions* in their understanding.

Collins had high expectations for her students. Building their self-confidence was a key to her methods. Those who misbehaved might be asked to write "One hundred reasons why I am too wonderful to do what I am doing."

(7) When Collins's students *exhibited* great success on their standardized test scores, the tiny school started to become famous. Collins was soon making national headlines. A major television network even produced a movie called *The Marva Collins Story*.

To assess the effectiveness of Collins's teaching methods, researchers did a follow-up study of thirty-three graduates of her school. These students were from a poor neighborhood, and many had entered her school with academic problems. (8) However, when the results of the study were *disclosed*, they showed that every graduate was successful. Inspired by Collins, many had become teachers.

Although she is no longer running a school, Collins continues to work in the field of education. Her methods are used in schools across the United States. (9) To help explain these methods, she conducts *seminars* on teaching. (10) At these gatherings, she *expounds* on her philosophy of education. Collins's belief that every child is a "winner" has inspired thousands of teachers and students.

(1) Marva's *ingrained* sense of self-confidence came, in part, from her father. In Marva's hometown, African Americans were forbidden to use the local library.

(2) "When somebody tells you that you 'can't' do something," her father *confided* to her, "just take off the 't' and turn the word into 'can.'" To prove his point, he brought home books from a neighboring city's library.

Marva originally wanted to become a secretary. Because she was black, however, she was discouraged from pursuing this career. As an alternative, she went into teaching and soon discovered her passion for education. After fourteen years of working in public schools, Collins decided to open her own school.

With only six students and almost no money, she founded the Westside Preparatory School in Chicago.

(3) Because Collins believed that great writers could *enlighten* young minds, she encouraged students as

Each sentence below refers to a numbered sentence in the passage. Write the letter of the choice that gives the sentence a meaning that is closest to the original sentence.

- _____ 1. Marva's _____ sense of self-confidence came, in part, from her father.
 - a. mistaken
 - b. hard-to-see
 - c. publicly displayed
 - d. deep-seated

- _____ 2. "When somebody tells you that you 'can't' do something," her father _____ to her, "just take off the 't' and turn the word into 'can.'"
 - a. revealed
 - b. taught a course
 - c. said privately
 - d. talked at length

- _____ 3. Collins believed that great writers could _____ young minds.
 - a. give insight to
 - b. publicly display
 - c. make clear
 - d. give classes to

- _____ 4. Her students studied such _____ as the ancient Greek philosophers Socrates and Plato.
 a. conferences b. wise people c. trustworthy men d. difficult students
- _____ 5. This strategy enabled students to _____ the logic behind their thoughts.
 a. make clear b. misunderstand c. display d. write about
- _____ 6. When they expressed themselves, Collins could correct _____ in their understanding.
 a. deep-seated ideas b. final exams c. mistaken ideas d. secret information
- _____ 7. When Collins's students _____ great success on their standardized test scores, the tiny school started to become famous.
 a. made clear b. went beyond c. showed d. had insight
- _____ 8. However, when the results of the study were _____, they showed that every graduate was successful.
 a. revealed b. told secretly c. made clear d. found
- _____ 9. To help explain these methods, she conducts _____ on teaching.
 a. mistaken ideas b. classes c. educators d. public displays
- _____ 10. At these gatherings, she _____ on her philosophy of education.
 a. teaches briefly b. talks secretly c. writes a paper d. speaks at length

Indicate whether the statements below are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

- _____ 1. The government contributed lots of money to help Marva Collins found the Westside Preparatory School.
- _____ 2. According to Marva Collins, self-confidence is a key to becoming a good student.
- _____ 3. Today, educators still use Marva Collins's teaching methods.

FINISH THE THOUGHT

Complete each sentence so that it shows the meaning of the italicized word.

1. Something that has been *ingrained* into my mind is _____

2. It is a *misconception* to think that _____

WRITE THE DERIVATIVE

Complete the sentence by writing the correct form of the word shown in parentheses. You may not need to change the form that is given.

- _____ 1. During the debate, Antonio _____ his vast knowledge of legal issues. (*exhibit*)

- _____ 2. The company offered many _____ to its employees on ways to use computers more efficiently. (*seminar*)
- _____ 3. I hope to have as much _____ as my grandmother when I am her age. (*sage*)
- _____ 4. Orly asked the teacher for _____ of the new math rule. (*clarify*)
- _____ 5. The professor loved to _____ on the meaning of literature. (*expound*)
- _____ 6. The _____ of this evidence could lead to a guilty verdict. (*disclose*)
- _____ 7. His summary of the speech shows that he _____ the speaker's main points. (*misconception*)
- _____ 8. A university's goal is to provide _____ to all students. (*enlighten*)
- _____ 9. Inez told me the secret in _____. (*confide*)
- _____ 10. The mother made sure to _____ in her children the importance of being kind and considerate. (*ingrained*)