

## ***Color and Character* and North Carolina High School History Standards**

The stories in *Color and Character* link to several key components of North Carolina's standards for high school American history (NC History 2).

Specifically, the book offers a case study of the way that several decades of cultural changes, political strategies, economic developments, federal policies and Supreme Court decisions shaped and reshaped racial and educational realities in one North Carolina city. It also explores the relationship between the actions of individuals and national social, political and economic shifts.

The legal and political developments that led to Charlotte's breakthrough busing plan of 1974, along with the major changes made in 1992 and 2002, highlighted conflicts among residents over competing visions of education and equality.

The plans themselves, which responded to federal legal mandates as well as local politics, involved multiple compromises over key issues, and demonstrated the active interplay of local and national forces.

The book is particularly relevant to the following standards.

### **Essential Standard AH2.H.2.2**

Evaluate key turning points since the end of Reconstruction in terms of their lasting impact (e.g., conflicts, legislation, elections, innovations, leadership, movements, Supreme Court decisions, etc.).

***Color and Character* vividly demonstrates both the lasting impact of the Supreme Court's *Brown* decision and the amount of on-the-ground effort required to make a court order into reality. See especially chapters 2, 3 and 4.**

### **Essential Standard: AH2.H.4**

Analyze how conflict and compromise have shaped politics, economics and culture in the United States. Concepts: Conflict, Compromise, Change, Policy.

#### **AH2.H.4.1**

Analyze the political issues and conflicts that impacted the United States since Reconstruction and the compromises that resulted. (e.g., Populism, Progressivism, working conditions and labor unrest, New Deal, Wilmington Race Riots, Eugenics, Civil Rights Movement, Anti-War protests, Watergate, etc.)

***Color and Character* offers a detailed account of the development of Charlotte's civil rights movement, and the strategies adopted by civil rights activists who pressed for change and by civic leaders who sought to maintain order and preserve the city's national reputation. See especially chapters 2 and 3.**

**AH2.H.4.3**

Analyze the social and religious conflicts, movements and reforms that impacted the United States since Reconstruction in terms of participants, strategies, opposition, and results.

**"Unpacking" document includes:**

- How executive, legislative and judicial decisions of the federal government impacted the direction and outcome of the African American civil rights movement.
- How the African American civil rights movement of the 20th Century was led by a variety of individuals and organizations with different strategies.
- How women and young people influenced the direction and outcome of specific events within the African American civil rights movement of the 20th Century.
- How and to what extent various civil rights events and movements successfully tested segregation and gained greater equality for different groups of Americans.

*Color and Character* covers all these subjects, with particular attention to the different strategies used by different groups of Charlotte's civil rights activists. See especially chapters 1, 2 and 3.

**Essential Standard: AH2.H.5**

Understand how tensions between freedom, equality and power have shaped the political, economic and social development of the United States. Concepts: Freedom, Equality, Power, Ideology.

**Debates over busing in Charlotte offer a classic example of tensions over varying definitions of freedom and equality, and how those debates are influenced by shifting power relations. See especially chapters 3 and 5.**

**AH2.H.5.1**

Summarize how the philosophical, ideological and/or religious views on freedom and equality contributed to the development of American political and economic systems since Reconstruction.

**"Unpacking" document includes:**

- How the rulings of the United States Supreme Court under Chief Justice Earl Warren altered the traditional legal position on racial equality . . .
- How and why the African American civil rights movement developed over the 20th Century . . .

- How the ‘Conservative/Reagan Revolution’ of the 1980’s and beyond addressed issues of social and racial injustice and how it impacted American political and economic systems.

***Color and Character* covers all these developments, particularly in terms of their on-the-ground effects. See especially chapters 2, 3, 5 and 6.**

### **Essential Standard: AH2.H.8**

Analyze the relationship between progress, crisis and the “American Dream” within the United States.

**Charlotte's nationally renowned school busing plan is a classic example of how a crisis (the political and social turmoil sparked by the *Swann* decision) could lead to compromises that produced significant progress. See especially chapter 3.**

### **AH2.H.8.3**

Evaluate the extent to which a variety of groups and individuals have had opportunity to attain their perception of the “American Dream” since Reconstruction

#### **"Unpacking" document includes:**

- To what extent the leaders and participants of civil rights movements successfully organized, protested and advocated for greater freedom and equality.

***Color and Character* offers a detailed account of civil rights movement gains and of persisting (and sometimes increasing) challenges, particularly for low-income African Americans. See especially chapters 3, 5 and 6.**

North Carolina History Standards:

[dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/unpacking/american2.pdf](http://dpi.state.nc.us/docs/curriculum/socialstudies/scos/unpacking/american2.pdf)

For chapter-by-chapter summaries of *Color and Character*, along with other supporting documents, see: <http://www.colorandcharacter.org/home/study-guides/>