

## Granddaddy's Street Songs

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Lesson plan by Linda Troutt

Summary: Roddy pulls out the old family photo album and listens to Granddaddy tell the story of his days as an arabber, a fruit and vegetable vender, walking the streets of Baltimore with his horse-drawn wagon. Roddy learns that each vendor had a “gimmick” to try to attract the most customers.

Discuss the term “arabber” as detailed in the historical note on the last page of the book. Have the students brainstorm different things that might be used as a gimmick on a horse-drawn wagon selling fruits, vegetables, and seafood.

Activities:

**Writing/Grammar/Usage and Mechanics. Standard 2: Modes and Forms of Writing – The student will communicate through a variety of written forms and for various purposes and to a specific audience or person.**

- 1) After reading Granddaddy's Street Songs with the class, discuss memories that students might have about an everyday event in their lives. Have students write, tell, and or illustrate their own stories about such an event. Grandparents might be invited to the class to share a story about an everyday event in their past.

**Reading/Literature. Standard 4: Fluency – the student will identify words rapidly so that attention is directed at the meaning of the text.**

- 2) Divide the class into groups, with each group presenting part of one of the “calls” from Granddaddy's Street Songs. They might be presented as a rap, choral reading, with instruments, etc.