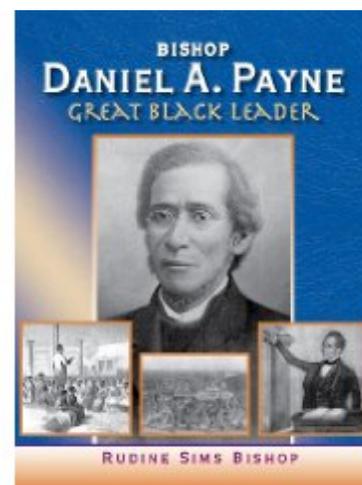


Teacher's Guide

Bishop Daniel A. Payne: Great Black Leader

By Rudine Sims Bishop

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Book Description:

Born in 1811 to free people of color in South Carolina, Daniel Payne was orphaned by age 9, and raised by his great aunt during a time when slavery still ruled the South. But he believed in the power of education and the promise of faith. He wanted to become a person who would make a positive difference in the world. Often teaching himself, he learned physics, Latin, and geometry and at age 18, started his first school. Payne went on to study in the North, become an ordained minister, and later a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Ultimately, he became one of the most influential religious leaders in Black America. He also took a place in history as the first Black president of an African American College – Wilberforce University, the institution that he helped to establish.

Target Ages: 9-12

Themes: religion, black history, education, literacy, leadership

Pre-Reading Questions:

Bishop Daniel A. Payne is considered a great leader. What other African-American leaders can you name? How did they make a difference?

In what ways are you a leader?

Discussion Questions:

Bishop Daniel A. Payne was short in stature, but how was he big in life?

What lessons did Daniel Payne's parents pass on? How did that early foundation shape his life?

How did reading a book by Rev. John Brown – an autodidact – become the turning point of Daniel Payne's life?

What did God call Daniel to do at the age of 17?

How did discipline help Daniel follow his calling?

How did Daniel share his love of learning with others? What was his school like?

How did a caterpillar change Daniel's life?

Why was a school like Daniel's a threat to slavery?

How did Daniel's life change in the North?

What was the second call from God Daniel received? How did it change him?

What role did the AME Church play in the lives of African-Americans?

Why did Daniel worry he wouldn't be welcome in the AME church?

How did Daniel continue to help people through teaching? How did he blend his two callings – teaching and preaching?

Why did Daniel Payne launch a campaign to require AME ministers to be educated? What was the result?

How did Daniel Payne change the style of worship and praise in the AME church?

What role did poetry play in his life?

How did Daniel feel when he was elected bishop?

The book says Daniel Payne was a warrior. In what ways? What did he fight for?

How did Bishop Payne meet President Lincoln?

How did Bishop Payne become the first president of an African-American college?

How did Bishop Payne make his statement, "From these ashes a nobler building shall arise" come true?

What role did Bishop Payne's wife, Eliza "Ma Payne," play at Wilberforce?

How did Bishop Payne turn Wilberforce into a real university?

What changes in the AME ministry upset Bishop Payne?

What is Bishop Payne's legacy?

Define these words:

slavery

autodidact

abolitionist

emigration

colonization

seminary

insurrection

campaign

activist

bishop

temperance

WRITING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Daniel Payne wrote poems to express certain feelings in his life. Study his poetry. What's his poetic style? Find examples of rhyme and metaphor. What do you learn about Daniel Payne through his words?

Write a poem that expresses how you feel.

Write an essay about what leadership means to you.

Bishop Daniel A. Payne believed deeply in education. Why is education important? Write about what education gives you and others.

HISTORY

Though Daniel Payne was born free, how did slavery influence his work and mission?

How did Bishop Payne shape the times he lived in? Name some examples of how his work impacted the world around him.

Daniel Payne was a very important person in the history of Black America, yet his story may not be as well known to the general public. Identify one other "unsung" hero. Write a profile or make a presentation to introduce him or her to the class.

About the Author

Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop is Professor Emerita of Education at The Ohio State University, where she specialized in children's literature. A familiar name in the realms of children's literature, multicultural education, and literacy education as an educator, mentor, and researcher, Dr. Bishop has also been an essayist (*Stories Matter: The Complexity of Cultural Authenticity in Children's Literature*) an editor (*Kaleidoscope: A Multicultural Booklist for Grades K-8*) and an author (*Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Fiction; Presenting Walter Dean Myers*). She has received several awards and honors, including the 2007 Outstanding Elementary Language Arts Educator Award from the National Council of Teachers of English. Bishop Daniel A. Payne: Great Black Leader, is Dr. Bishop's first published work with Just Us Books.



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