



From the back cover:

The brutal inhumanities and deadly cruelties that often characterized slavery in the United States are well-known. *Blood Kin* tells a different side of the story, one in which two boys, one black and the other white, care to challenge the racial barriers of their time by reaching out to one another in friendship only to later discover that they actually share the same blood. Told with a fascinating blend of history, folklore and first-rate storytelling, *Blood Kin* takes readers in to the world of Woodloe Plantation outside Savannah, Georgia. There, the residents hope to avoid the growing threat of violence in the United States but find themselves torn apart not only by the Civil War but my long-held family secrets and resentments finally revealed. *Blood Kin* is that rare kind of literary event that opens readers' hearts with joy and lifts their spirits with the power of inspiration.

About the author of Blood Kin:

Savannah native Robert T.S. Mickles, Sr. is the great-grandson of former slaves on one side of his family and Portuguese slave traders on the other. This double heritage makes him uniquely qualified to tell the amazing story of family division and family love that he shares in *Blood Kin*.

Blood Kin Writing Project

Author: Sabrina Brown

Liberty County Schools, Georgia

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Objective: The objective of this lesson is to engage students in the reading of historical fiction by having them write using the different styles of writing.

Writing Prompts

Expository Writing: Make believe that you are a slave on Woodloe Plantation. You are now responsible for showing the ropes to a newly purchased adult slave. Write an expository paper one page in length where you explain the duties of the following people on the plantation: Old Jordan, Ada, and Isaac.

Persuasive Writing: Make believe that you are Lew Jones. Persuade your mother, Mrs. Jones, that Isaac must not continue to run the plantation. In your paper answer the following questions: Why would this be a good decision for Woodloe Plantation? Who if anyone could take Isaac's place? What other job could Isaac do on the plantation?

Narrative Writing: Make believe that you are a slave on Woodloe Plantation. How has your life, or the lives of the other slaves, changed since Isaac's arrival? How do you all feel about Isaac? What do you or the other slaves wish would happen? What do you and the other slaves think will happen to you all if Isaac stays?

Descriptive Writing: Make believe that you are a visitor on Woodloe Plantation. Describe the front gate, long road, big house and slave quarters to someone who has never seen a plantation before. This can be in the form of a letter or a journal entry.