

"The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage" by Selina Alko

Subject:	History and Social Sciences, Language Arts
Grade Level:	PreK, K
Topic:	Civil Rights
Objectives:	Students will understand the concepts of love, diversity, and acceptance through the story of Mildred and Richard Loving. Students will demonstrate and recognize characteristics of empathy such as the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect.
VA SOL:	English Language Arts: K.6, K.7, K.8 History and Social Science: K.1
Materials:	"The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage " by Selina Alko Images of Mildred and Richard Loving (primary sources; Appendix A) Chart paper and markers Crayons or colored pencils Worksheets with simple activities related to the book

Lesson Outline:

1. Introduction (15 minutes):

- **Hook:** Start by showing students pictures of Mildred and Richard Loving. Ask students what they notice and how they think the people in the pictures might feel.
- **Connection:** Explain that we are going to read a story about Mildred and Richard Loving, who the loving family was that helped change laws about love and marriage in Virginia in 1967.

2. Reading and Discussion (20 minutes):

- Read aloud "The Case for Loving" by Selina Alko.
- Pause at key points to ask engaging questions:
 - What did Mildred and Richard want to do together?
 - How did their love help change things?
 - Why is it important to treat everyone with kindness?

3. Activity - Love and Diversity (20 minutes):

- **Group Discussion:** Use chart paper to write down ideas about what love means and how families can be different.

- **Drawing Activity:** Have students draw a picture of their own family or a picture showing kindness and love. Encourage them to include different family members or friends.
4. **Wrap-up (10 minutes):**
- **Sharing:** Ask volunteers to share their drawings and explain why they drew what they did.
 - **Reflection:** Discuss with students why it's important to be kind to everyone, even if they are different from us.
5. **Extension Activity (Optional):**
- **Role Play:** Act out a scenario where someone is being kind to a new friend who is different.
 - **Writing:** Have students retell the story and tell about what they learned from Mildred and Richard Loving's story.

Assessment:

- Informally assess students through their participation in discussions and the completion of their drawings.
- Review students' drawings and written ideas on chart paper of the understanding of the themes of love and diversity.

Integration of Primary Resources:

- Show primary sources (pictures of Mildred and Richard Loving) to provide a real-world connection to the story (Appendix A)
- Discuss briefly how laws have changed over time to ensure that families of all kinds are treated fairly.

Differentiation:

- For students needing extra support, provide simpler comprehension questions and additional visual aids.
- For advanced students, encourage deeper discussions about why laws about families are important and how they impact people's lives.
- For visual and auditory learners, I will provide a video extension of this lesson that will review another book about the Loving Vs. Virginia court case. I will also display the picture of the Loving family from the book and these two materials will be my primary sources for this lesson plan. ([Loving vs. Virginia | Library of Congress \(loc.gov\)](https://www.loc.gov/rr/education/teachwithus/loving.html))

By using "The Case for Loving" as a focal point, this lesson plan not only meets Virginia standards but also fosters empathy, understanding, and appreciation for diversity among young learners which builds on social-emotional learning skills needed for Pre-K.

Additional Resources

- [Loving v. Commonwealth, 147 S.E.2d 78, 206 Va. 924 – CourtListener.com](#)
- [Loving v. Virginia: “Banished” for Love | In Custodia Legis \(loc.gov\)](#)

Lesson Created by Taylor Nicely and Megan Johnson

Appendix A



Richard and Mildred Loving, 1967.

Image retrieved from <https://www.denverpost.com/2017/06/11/interracial-couples-discrimination-loving/>