

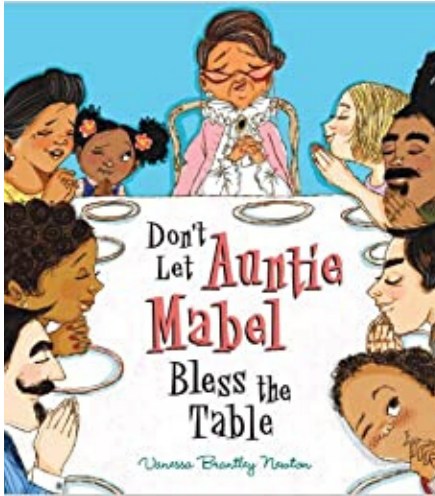


REGINALD F. LEWIS MUSEUM OF
MARYLAND AFRICAN
AMERICAN HISTORY
& CULTURE

Story Time:

Family Activity Sheet

Enjoy a recorded story reading of **Don't Let Auntie Mabel Bless the Table** by author and illustrator Vanessa Brantley Newton!



Synopsis: Auntie Mabel and her family and friends have gathered for their big Sunday dinner and can't wait to dig into a delicious, mouthwatering meal. Before they can begin, Auntie Mabel starts and doesn't stop blessing everyone and everything she surveys: the yams and brussels sprouts and the table and chairs! Author and illustrator Vanessa Brantley Newton's delectable celebration of food and family is a joyous appreciation of how traditions and rituals bring us, and keep us, together...

[Click here to purchase the book](#)

Discussion

After Reading the Book:

- Why didn't friends and family want Aunt Mabel to bless the meal?
- What were some of the funny things Aunt Mabel gave thanks for?
- When was a time when your family or friends came together for a special meal?
- What was your favorite memory from the meal?
- What are you thankful for?

Reginald F. Lewis Museum Connection



Bea Gaddy was a long time champion that fed the poor and homeless during Thanksgiving. Her famous Thanksgiving dinners were the most celebrated examples of giving and compassion in Baltimore. She once served 20,000 meals. Ms. Gaddy persuaded businesses and local grocers to supply most of the food and served the meal at a middle school. Many of the people she helped called her "Saint Bea."

Family Activities

Create Your Own Table Setting

You will need: Color Construction Paper
Magazine/Pattern Paper
Markers/Crayons
Scissors and glue stick



Instructions:

1. Choose one piece of construction paper to be your placemat.
2. Cut out a large circle about one inch smaller than your placemat's width. You can use a small plate as a guide by placing it on the paper and tracing the diameter with a crayon or pencil. Repeat this step for a glass.
3. Cut out shapes for the fork, knife and spoon. You can use the real utensil as a guide. Also cut out a rectangle a little larger than your fork for a napkin.
4. Glue the shapes onto the placemat. The plate circle goes in the center. The knife and spoon should be glued to the plate's right. Glue the napkin to the left of the plate with the fork on top of it. The glass should be glued above the knife.
5. Decorate your plate using the crayons or food pictures cut out from magazines.

Gratitude Board

You will need: Poster or cardboard
Marker/Crayons
Magazines/Photographs
Black or construction paper
Scissors and glue stick



Instructions:

1. You can make this gratitude board by yourself or as a family.
2. Create a list of things, people, or animals you are thankful to have in your life.
3. Draw a picture or cut out an image from a magazine to symbolize the things listed.
4. Write the phrase at the top of your poster or cardboard, ex. "I am thankful for..."
5. Glue your pictures to the poster or cardboard.
6. Decorate the poster with markers or crayons.