



# TeachersFirst **READING TREKS**

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## *Buffalo Dance* *The Journey of York*

Teacher Guide

### Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading  
Trek Map

**Ages:** 16+

**Grades:** 10-12

**Reading Level:** Young Adult

**Lexile Measure:** -

**Guided Reading Level:** -

**Developmental Reading**

**Assessment (DRA):** N/A

**Content Areas:** English/language arts, reading, literature, social studies, and geography.

## Synopsis of Book

Frank X Walker learned about York, and his contributions to the Lewis and Clark expedition while attending Hasan Davis' Chautauqua presentation as part of the expedition's bicentennial celebration. Walker set out to give voice to York through 57 poems that spanned the timeframe before, during, and after the expedition. The word choice and spellings of words reflect speaking mannerisms of the past. These poems provide insight to how and what York may have felt and thought. Excerpts from individuals add context and a time stamp perspective to many of the poems.

## Standards

### Common Core State Standards for 6–12

#### Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

#### Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

## National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

## National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING

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## Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

## Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

### Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the Reading Trek map and highlighting its various layers.
2. As an introductory activity, read a preselected poem aloud without identifying it by title, then have students suggest titles anonymously using GoSoapBox ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
3. Watch the video "[Frank X Walker: Affrilachian Poet Snapshot Bio](#)" where Walker discusses the creative arts. Have students create persuasive infographics supporting arts funding using Genially ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
4. As a class discuss social justice situations within the school, community, state, nation, and the world. Individually or collaboratively, students can research the situations and offer suggestions for correcting the injustices, then use Gravit Designer ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create shareable infographics for social networks.
5. Have students compose a response to a poem that interest them, use The Public Domain Project ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to choose images and/or audio files that correspond to the poem, then explain their choices.

## Extension Activities:

1. Have students create collages as a response to an individual poem using images from Pixabay ([TeachersFirst review](#)) and using Photo Collage ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to assemble.
2. View the news story "[Visiting Writer: Frank X Walker talks about race in Appalachia.](#)" In small groups, ask students to discuss if and how the media has impacted personal beliefs about race and culture. Use My Case Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to have students complete [Challenge: Brown vs. Board of Education](#).
3. Select a poem (or allow students to self-select) and identify keywords that may have led the author to the given title. Use the keywords to create a word cloud to show which words are used most frequently. Try a tool like Poll Everywhere's Word Cloud Generator ([TeachersFirst review](#)). If you're using digital copies of the text, WordSift ([TeachersFirst review](#)) is another excellent option to create word clouds.
4. In the poem "Nomenclature" (Walker 36), there is a quotation from Meriwether Lewis about how York gained favor with Native Americans they encountered. Have students consider and compose a written reflection about a time when their curiosity about an individual's differences resulted in a changed opinion.
5. After reading "York Haichu" (Walker 57), have students use Animoto ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to write and illustrate their own allegory or proverbial poem .

## Helpful Resources

### From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

### Other Resources:

- [Frank X Walker](#)
- [8 Affrilachian Poetry Collections](#)
- [Filson Historical Society](#)
- [Discovering Lewis and Clark](#)
- [Lewis and Clark Timeline](#)
- [Westward Expansion-Lewis and Clark](#)
- [Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition](#)