

# THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment such as television often reflects the interests and attitudes of the nation. Look through the television listings of today's newspaper and find all the regular shows that feature African American families. In the spaces below, list three shows. Then write a short summary for each describing how the characters are portrayed. Finally, indicate whether, in your opinion, the portrayal is realistic or not realistic by putting a star in the box next to those you feel are realistic and an "x" in the box next to those you believe to be unrealistic.

**SHOW:**

**Summary**

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**SHOW:**

**Summary**

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**SHOW:**

**Summary**

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# UNIT 6

## DIVERSITY: MAKING BLACK HISTORY

*Black History is not just the story of the past. Black History is being written every day in the accomplishments of African Americans in every field and profession. The activities in this unit look at important recent events in Black History in America.*

### 1. Spotighting Black History \*

In 2002 former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer became president-elect of the American Bar Association—the nation's top group for lawyers. In winning election, he became the first African American to hold the position. Every February we celebrate Black History Month to honor the successes of African Americans. Have students use the newspaper to find an African American who is achieving success. Have them design a poster honoring that person. Make sure they give each poster a creative title.

*STANDARDS/SKILLS: Describing diverse cultures and communities; explaining how individuals in history demonstrate good character and virtue; using the craft of the illustrator.*

### 2. Powell on MTV \*

Secretary of State Colin Powell went on an MTV show last year that was broadcast all over the world. He chose to appear so that he could explain the United States' position in the war on terrorism and to field questions from studio audiences in several countries. As a class, read a story in today's newspaper about terrorism or Secretary of State Powell. With the "Question, Mr. Powell" activity sheet, challenge students to come up with five questions they would ask Powell if given the opportunity. Have students swap questions with a classmate and answer them to the best of their ability as if they were Colin Powell.

*STANDARDS/SKILLS: Using oral, written and visual texts to identify and research issues of importance that confront adolescents, their community, their nation and the world.*

### 3. When Halle Met Oscar \*

Halle Berry made history when she won an Academy Award for lead actress for her role in the movie "Monster's Ball." She was the first African American woman to win an Oscar in that category. Have students find a

story in today's newspaper about another "first." With the activity sheet titled "When Halle Met Oscar," challenge them to create a comic strip illustrating the significance of the accomplishment.

*STANDARDS/SKILLS: Using the English language effectively; using the craft of the illustrator to convey meaning.*

### 4. Sports Stars

Serena and Venus Williams have made news over the last year for their great tennis accomplishments. Have students look in the sports section of today's newspaper to find out about other African American athletes making news. Have them pick the five they think are doing the most significant things in today's news. Then have them pick an African American athlete they admire and write a personal letter to him or her.

*STANDARDS/SKILLS: Acquiring information from various sources, including newspapers; recognizing and using various techniques to construct text to influence an audience.*

### 5. Which Way the Wind Blows

Author Alice Randall wrote a book that got a lot of attention called "The Wind Done Gone." It is based on the famous Civil War novel "Gone with the Wind," but it is told from the point of view of a Randall-invented character named Cynara. Cynara is daughter of the slave Mammy and half-sister to "Gone With the Wind" heroine Scarlett. In 2001, the estate of Margaret Mitchell, author of "Gone With the Wind," sued to stop publication of "The Wind Done Gone" on the ground that it used the original plot owned by the Mitchell estate. Eventually the book came out. Discuss and have students write a short newspaper editorial expressing their opinion about whether or not "The Wind Done Gone" should have been published.

*STANDARDS/SKILLS: Judging decisions from the past; recognizing and using various techniques to construct text to influence an audience.*

\*Includes activity sheet for students.