

Honoree: John and Marie Epps

Grade Level: 6-12

Subject: ELA

Standards Addressed:

[Understanding and Using Literary Texts](#)

[Developing Written Communication](#)

Goal/Objective: Students will respond to informational and literary texts through a friendly letter or email.

Items/Tools needed: Internet access (or a copy of the biographical information), paper and pen or access to email

Steps/Strategy:

1. Students access biographical information about the Epps at <http://www.scafricanamerican.com/calendar2012.pdf>.
2. After studying a text thematically related to the Civil Rights Movement or another modern civil rights issue, students write a letter or email of encouragement from John and/or Marie Epps to a character in the text or the author or speaker of the text. Possible texts include *The Autobiography of Mrs. Jane Pittman* (Gaines), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Hansberry), "I Have a Dream" (King), Farewell to Manzanar (Wakatsuki), "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (King), "The Black Table Is Still There" (Graham).