



A Campaign of the
Oakland Literacy Coalition

Read Aloud Guide

Title: *Freedom Soup*, by Tami Charles, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara

Best for: K - 2

Summary: This book is about Ti Gran and Belle making Freedom Soup, a Haitian New Year holiday feast. Freedom Soup began during the Haitian Revolution and Ti Gran tells Belle about her family's Haitian history as well as the history of the Haitian Revolution. As they prepare the holiday feast, they dance and clap together as Belle learns how to cook such a special feast.

Why we chose this book: This book introduces the Haitian Revolution in a way which is easy to understand for younger audiences. As Ti Gran walks Belle through the history and ingredients of Freedom Soup, the reader also learns what makes Freedom Soup unique and historical.

Central themes: identity, Haitian revolution, belonging, family, community, food

Introducing the book: You can begin by showing the cover, reading the title and author, and then saying something like this:

"This book is about a little girl learning how to make a holiday feast. Do you have a favorite holiday food?"

"What do you think Ti Gran is feeling when she shows Belle how to make Freedom Soup?"

"This book is about the Haitian Revolution. How much do you know about the Haitian Revolution?"

After Reading: Debrief with students:

"How do you think Belle felt after learning the history behind Freedom Soup?"

"What does Freedom Soup represent to Belle and Ti Gran?"