



## Story Guide

### THE GREAT SUGAR INCIDENT

BY  
DONNA WASHINGTON

Watch the video of storyteller Donna Washington live at the 2019 National Storytelling Festival [here](#).  
(Right click on link to open it in a new tab.) All videos include ASL interpretation.

Story run time is 08:22 to 27:18

Now, enjoy exploring the story with the activities outlined below.



### explore it

- Foreshadowing is a literary device used to hint at things to come. Donna says she's going to tell this story, "...because I'm the only one who can tell you." How is this foreshadowing? What might she mean?
- What sound effects and body language does Donna use to create a mental picture of her father? Use sound effects and body language to portray someone. Ask a friend to guess who you are portraying.



### think it

- Why did Donna and her siblings get in trouble for having minty breath?
- How did Donna and her siblings decide who would take the blame for mishaps?
- Donna's dad believed that "work builds character" and created a chart of chores. What was considered the worst chore? Do you agree that this was the worst chore?
- What happened when dad discovered sugar on the counter?



### create it

- Donna uses the repetition of vowel and consonant sounds in her descriptions to paint a mental picture of what is happening. She says "muttering mother" and "a lone forlorn child climbs the stairs." Give examples of rhymes or songs that use repetition. Create an example of your own.
- Make a list of your most and least favorite chores. Do a chore that will make someone in your family happy.



### tell it

- Darren could be called a scapegoat because he took the blame for the sugar incident so no one else would get spanked. Have you ever had someone take the blame for you? Have you been the scapegoat? Journal about your experiences.
- At the end, two boys had different ideas about the moral of this story. How did their ideas differ? What did Donna say was the moral of the story? Tell your version of the moral of the story.