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Mrs. Eastman
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Options for teaching Conflict Resolution with Children's Literature
Based on: Mr. Lincoln's Way
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Conflict Summary: Mr. Lincoln, an elementary school principal is loved by all his students. All but Eugene, that is. Eugene's father calls Mr. Lincoln horrible names, so Eugene begins believe it to be true. So even though Mr. Lincoln and Eugene are becoming better friends, but what should he do?

1. **Name the conflict.** Intrapersonal Conflict. What his father say's verses what he feels.
2. **Who is involved? What is their conflict resolution style?**
 - * Mr. Lincoln – problem solver
 - * Eugene - avoidance
 - * Eugene's dad - force
3. **How did the conflict start?** Mr. Lincoln is an African American man. Due to this reason alone, Eugene's dad, however, has a preconceived idea about African Americans. Eugene's dad is trying to push these beliefs onto Eugene. So now what is Eugene to do about his favorite principal? This situation got worst when Eugene began to work with Mr. Lincoln on a special project on a regular basis.
4. **How did the characters feel?**
 - * Mr. Lincoln – confused at first why he could not get through to Eugene.
 - * Eugene – torn between a faculty favorite and what his father is telling him.
 - * Eugene's dad – forceful that African Americans are trouble, among other things
5. **What does each character want? Need?**
 - * Mr. Lincoln – wants to get through to Eugene and help him to learn and stay out of trouble while at school
 - * Eugene – wants to work on the project with Mr. Lincoln.
 - * Eugene's dad – his son to stay away from African Americans
6. **What question would you like to ask _____ character?** I would ask Eugene's dad what he has against African Americans. When did this start? Why?
7. **How are the characters the same and different?** Mr. Lincoln and Eugene's dad both want what is best for Eugene. They both also want Eugene to be a good student and be challenged with the material being taught, to make him smarter.
8. Then using this book with students you could ask the students if they have ever been in a similar situation. What would they do if that happened? Also have the students describe any or all of the three main characters in conflict using 5 adjectives.
9. **Which Conflict Resolution skill matches this book?**
 2. How to listen for facts and feelings.
Where is the dad getting this notion about African Americans?

After listening to one another, the dad and Mr. Lincoln might be able to sit down and talk about helping Eugene.

6. How to talk out differences.
The dad has a different perspective of African Americans.

Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way*. NY: Scholastic, Inc, 2001.