

TEACHER NOTES

GOLDIE WILSON & REPRESENTATION IN LEADERSHIP

LESSON OBJECTIVE: TO EXPLORE THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSE LEADERSHIP BY ANALYSING GOLDIE WILSON'S STORYLINE IN **BACK TO THE FUTURE: THE MUSICAL** AND COMPARING IT TO EDDIE MABO, THE FIRST INDIGENOUS MAN TO WIN A CASE FOR LAND RIGHTS IN AUSTRALIA.

RESOURCES

- ✓ Eddie Mabo fact sheet
- ✓ Goldie Wilson script excerpt (p. 20)

INTRODUCTION

Show the below image on the board:



[DOWNLOAD IMAGE HERE](#)



CLASS DISCUSSION:

- Why is this moment significant in the musical?
- What does Goldie Wilson's journey say about opportunity and perseverance?
- How does this moment challenge expectations in 1955?

MAIN ACTIVITY

STEP 1: READING & ANALYSIS

Hand out a printed script excerpt where Goldie Wilson, a young Black man working as a busboy, declares, “I’m gonna be Mayor someday!”

Students read the scene and discuss the historical barriers Goldie might face in 1955.



STEP 2: COMPARING TO EDDIE MABO’S STORY

Introduce Eddie Mabo, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activist who led the fight for land rights in Australia.

Show an article or summary of the Mabo Case, explaining how his victory in 1992 overturned the concept of terra nullius (the idea that Australia was “empty land” before British colonisation).

Class Discussion:

- How did Eddie Mabo’s determination lead to change?
- What barriers did he have to overcome?
- How is his story similar to Goldie Wilson’s ambition?

Discussion Questions:

- What challenges do underrepresented individuals face in leadership roles?
- How do fictional stories (like musicals) reflect real-world progress?
- Why is it important for young people to see diverse role models in leadership?

FINISHER

REFLECTION ACTIVITY:

Class discussion: Who in Australia today is making history like Goldie Wilson or Eddie Mabo?

Exit ticket: Write one sentence explaining why representation in leadership matters.



GOLDIE

Say: why do you let that boy
push you around like that?

GEORGE

Well, he's bigger than me.

GOLDIE

Stand tall, boy, have some respect for yourself.
If you let people walk all over you now,
they'll be walking all over you for the rest of your life.
Look at me. You think I'm gonna spend
the rest of my life in this slop house?

LOU

Watch it, Goldie.

MARTY

(a moment as he realizes who this is)
Goldie? Goldie Wilson?

GOLDIE

No, sir, I'm gonna make something of myself.
I'm going to night school and someday,
I'm gonna be somebody!

MARTY

That's right, he's gonna run for mayor!

GOLDIE

Yeah, I'm - mayor! Now that's a good idea...
I could run for mayor...!

LOU

A colored mayor. That'll be the day.

GOLDIE

You wait and see, Mister Carruthers!
I will be mayor! I'll be the most powerful man in
Hill Valley and I'm gonna clean up this town!

LOU

(tosses him a broom)

Good! You can start by sweeping the floor.

GOLDIE

Mayor Goldie Wilson. I like the sound of that!