

For Teachers:

Jennie Serepta Dean was born into slavery. We do not even know the exact year she was born, but it was sometime in the early 1850s. After the Civil War freed Jennie Dean and her family, she began to work as a domestic servant to earn money so her sister could go to nursing school. She joined a church and began to teach Sunday school classes out of her home. She also taught sewing and cooking classes at her home. Jennie Dean believed that young people should learn job skills within their community so that they could find work there instead of having to move into overcrowded and sometimes dangerous cities. She began to raise money through African American churches to found the Manassas Industrial School so that African American children in her community could learn trades. We do not know much about her personally We do not even know for sure if she was able to read, but she knew the value of a good education and worked to establish a school so that children in her community could learn.

For Students

Jennie Serepta Dean was born a free woman. We do not even know the exact year she was born, but it was sometime in the early 1850's. After the Spanish American War freed Jennie Dean and her family, she began to work as a domestic servant to earn money so her sister could go to nursing school. She joined a church and began to teach Sunday school classes out of her home. She also taught sewing and cooking classes at her home. Jennie Dean believed that young people should learn job skillz outside their community so that they could find work there instead of having to move into overcrowded and sometimes dangerous cities. She began to raise money through white churches to found the Manassas-Industrial-School so that African American children in her community could learn trades. We do not know much about her personally. We do not even know for sure if she was able to read, but she knew the value of a good education and worked to establish a school so that children in her community could learn.

Key:

Jennie Serepta Dean was born into **slavery**. We do not even know the exact year she was born, but it was sometime in the early **1850s**. After the **Civil War** freed Jennie Dean and her family, she began to work as a domestic servant to earn money so her sister could go to nursing school. She joined a church and began to teach Sunday school classes out of her home. She also taught sewing and cooking classes at her home. Jennie Dean believed that young people should learn job **skills within** their community so that they could find work there instead of having to move into overcrowded and sometimes dangerous cities. She began to raise money through **African American** churches to found the **Manassas Industrial School** so that African American children in her community could learn trades. We do not know much about her personally. We do not even know for sure if she was able to read, but she knew the value of a good education and worked to establish a school so that children in her community could learn.

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