

## CAROUSELS—Connect NEW to KNOWN

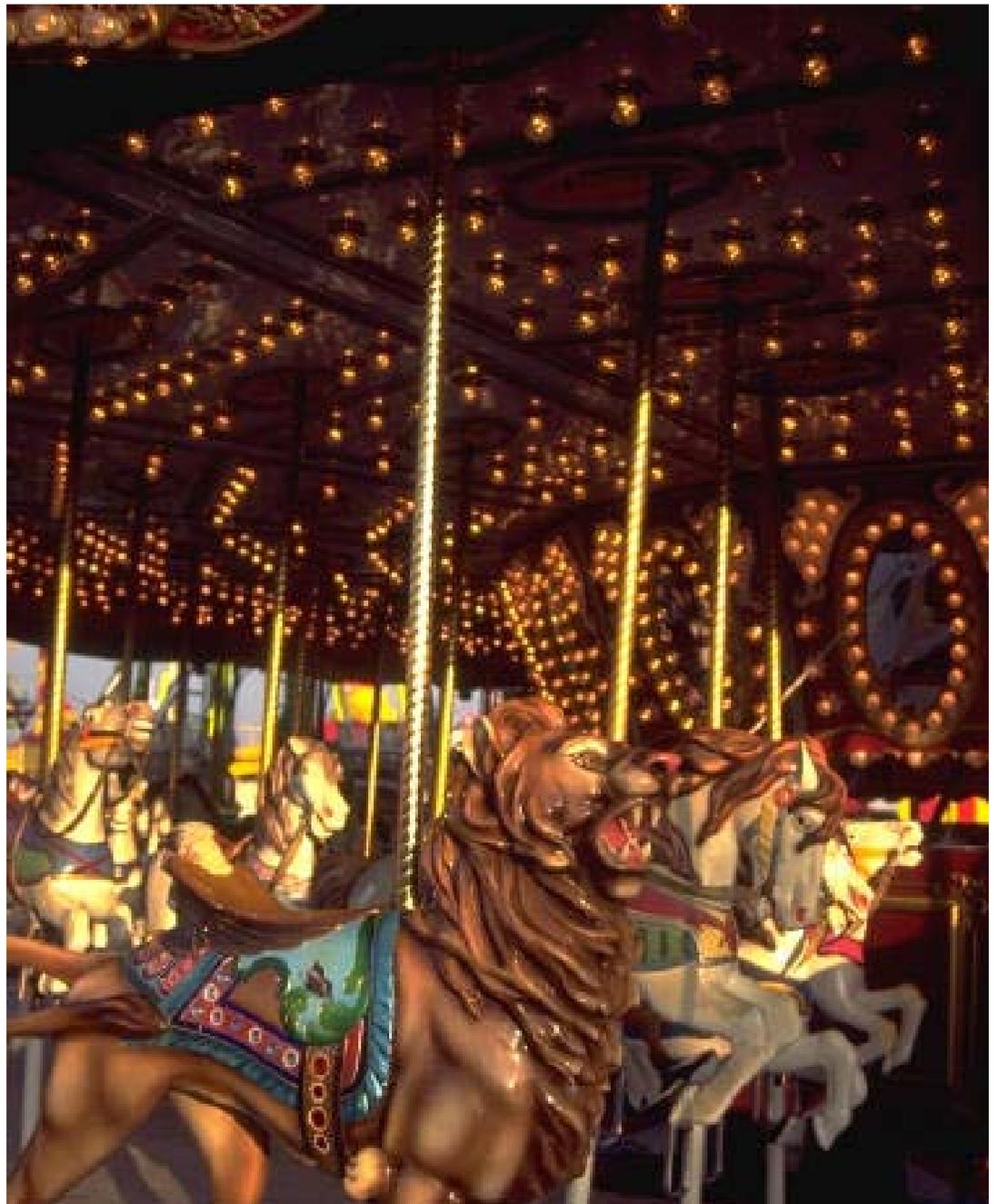
1. Show overhead of carousel photo and discuss associations students make when they think of a carousel; connect to Melba; continue reading to the end of the section at the bottom of p. 4. Generate list of words for emotions Melba may have felt.
2. Another perspective: show overhead of poem; read together (Viewing option: the link after the poem can be followed to a videotaped reading of the poem); discuss inter-textual connections

This would be a good time to explain the term “Jim Crow” if students are not familiar with it.

Between 1877 and 1960, African Americans had to obey a set of rules called "Jim Crow" laws that basically treated them like **third-class citizens**. What exactly does "Jim Crow" mean? Well, in the 1800s, a popular form of entertainment was for a white man to put on a suit, paint his face black, sing a bunch of racist songs and **dance around like a buffoon**. These performances were called "minstrel shows," and for some reason, people enjoyed them. One song that particularly got the crowd going was "Jim Crow." It eventually became a nickname for the many ways in which whites humiliated blacks.

Then continue reading to the end of the first chapter.

Source: Public domain clipart from the Internet



Source: <http://www.favoritepoem.org/poems/hughes/merry.html>

## **Merry-Go-Round**

by Langston Hughes

### **COLORED CHILD AT CARNIVAL**

**Where is the Jim Crow section  
On this merry-go-round,  
Mister, cause I want to ride?  
Down South where I come from  
White and colored  
Can't sit side by side.  
Down South on the train  
There's a Jim Crow car.  
On the bus we're put in the back—  
But there ain't no back  
To a merry-go-round!  
Where's the horse  
For a kid that's black?**

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Poem](#)