Plessy v. Ferguson / Newspaper Analysis—Answer Key

WEDNESDAY.

John Spiers, an Alabama sheriff, dies from a wound accidently received.

The Stevenson party are now in Atlanta, Ga., and will remain in that city several days.

Convicts in an Arkansas camp have been mysteriously poisoned. Four of the number have died.

F. F. Henderson, an employe in Forbes Bro's plaining mill at Hopkinsville, loses a hand. A circular saw did the work.

The Supreme court of Louisiana has declared constitutional the "Jim Crow" law of that State which provides separate cars for negroes.

A little boy, Tommie Richards, of Hopkinsville, while playing with a pistol, accidently shot himself in the head. He lies in a critical condition.

Ex-Sec'y-of-State Blaine's condition remains about the same. His family are prepared for the worst. The end may come at any time or the sick man may linger for weeks.

The Bee, Earlington, Ky., December 22, 1892, Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers, Library of Congress, https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn87060004/1892-12-22/ed-1/seq-2/.

Observe

- What text do you notice first?
 Student answers will vary. Students may respond:
 - Wednesday
 - John Spiers, an Alabama sheriff, dies from a wound accidently received.
- 2. Where and when was this article published? What is the significance? This article was published in *The Bee* a newspaper in Earlington, Kentucky, on December 22, 1892. This is significant because this date is four years before the case *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) is decided in the Supreme Court.
- 3. What development in Plessy's case does this article report?

 This is reporting on the lower court case that Homer Plessy loses and then asks the Supreme Court of the United States to hear.

Reflect

- 4. What can you tell about what was important at the time and place of publication? Student answers will vary but may include they care about crimes happening in the area and people who are ill. They want to know what is going on their town and things that may affect them personally.
- 5. What can you tell about the point of view of the people who wrote and published this article?

Given that this paper was in Kentucky and the news story was in Louisiana, the editor(s) might not have wanted to give it as much attention as other local matters. Therefore, they likely did not think it was a very important news story. It was not on the front page or even have an article all to itself.

Question

6. What do you still wonder about this source? Student answers will vary.