

If I Could Talk to George Washington Carver...

There are so many things I would like to tell George Washington Carver! If ever got the chance to meet and talk to him I would say three things. I would talk to him about his love and passion for plants, how much he struggled for an education, and how much whooping cough affected his life.

“So tell me a little about your relationship with plants.” I would ask him about the “secret” garden he had when he was a child, but I bet he wouldn’t tell me about it. I have read that he would find plants and nature and put it in his secret garden. “How did you feel when you helped the plants?” I would ask him. I would also tell him that I had heard that people call him “The Plant Doctor.” Caring for plants was George’s specialty. People would bring them their sick plants and he would nurse them back to health. George cared for Mother Earth’s plants.

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom to our people,” he once said. All through his life George struggled for an education. I would ask him about the time he left and walked to Neosho to attend a black school. I would say how courageous he was. In 1880, George was thrilled to accept a call of acceptance from Highland College. Sadly, when they found out he was black and they would not let him come. George and I would be sitting outside of Simpson College where they accepted him after Highland College. George’s white art teacher knew how much he loved plants and was worrying how he was going to get a job as a black artist. I would ask him what it felt like knowing that he wouldn’t be able to be an artist. His art teacher encouraged him to pursue a degree in science. George agreed and transferred to Iowa Agricultural College in Ames, Iowa in 1881. He was the first

African American in the school's history to graduate with a bachelor's degree, and to receive a master's degree in 1891-1896. I would tell him how brave he was to be the only African American in the school. George struggled for an education.

Whooping cough really affected George's life. I would tell him how courageous he was when he had whooping cough. It even changed his voice. It made his voice really high! "Something also happen that was really sad," he told me. His brother had died because of whooping cough. I would tell him how sorry I was for him.

Whooping cough really affected his life.

George and I had a great conversation. We talked about his love and passion for plants. We also talked about how he struggled for an education and last we talked about how Whooping Cough affected his life. I learned a lot of new and interesting facts about him and now you know too.