

Extended Activities

Historical Fiction Reading Unit Mary Reger

Lesson 1

Essential Questions: Can we learn about history by reading historical fiction?

Enduring Understanding: The students will learn more in depth of one of the four periods in history (Revolutionary War, Settler Period, Civil War, Depression Period). They will learn new vocabulary from their book. They will use text-to-self, main idea, and prediction, character and setting development skills through out the book.

Assessment: Each student will keep a reading response notebook that will be graded. Each student will take a written test on the Historical Fiction novel they read.

Materials:

- [Books for reading groups](#)
- Reading response notebooks
- “[Character Map](#)”
- “[Prediction Chart](#)”
- “[Story Map](#)”

Suggested Procedures:

1. Assign students a book to read from one of the four periods. Preview the book with them and talk about the period their book is about.
2. Assign chapters as appropriate for each group. Have each student right in their reading response notebook after each chapter. Assign these skills as appropriate for each book and group: Main idea, text-to-self, prediction, character and setting development. Discuss after each chapter.
3. Make a written test covering the book they read and administer to each student.

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Lesson 2

Essential Questions: How can you write a play from a novel?

Enduring Understanding: Each student will learn how to write a play from a book they read on Historical Fiction. They will also learn about other times in history by watching plays done by other reading groups.

Assessment: Each student will write a play based on the historical fiction novel they read using the “Writing a Play” worksheet.. Each student will perform a part(s) in their play based on their historical fiction novel. Each student will complete a “Play Summary” worksheet on the other plays.

Materials:

- “Writing a Play” worksheet
- Play script written by students or by teacher
- Props (and puppets) for play or puppet play.
- “Play Summary” worksheet

Suggested Procedures:

1. When they are done with their historical fiction novel have each student complete the “Writing a Play” worksheet. Handout an example of a play for them to see. Meet several times while they write their plays to give guidance. When they are done you may use one students play or write a new version combining the students’ efforts.
2. When the play is written assign part(s) to each student. Give them one copy for school practice and one copy for home practice. Have them highlight their part(s). Read through the play with them and have them continue to practice for the length of time it takes to memorize parts.
3. Have students make a list of props they will need for their play. They must decide if they will make props or get them from home. If you are doing a puppet play they will needs to make scenery backdrops. Assign students to draw and paint backdrops.
4. If you are doing a play the students need to decide on what they will wear for a costume and how it will be made etc. If you are doing a puppet play you need to decide on what kind of puppets (stick, hand, sock, etc.) you will use and what materials will be needed.
5. Once you have the set done with props and costumes ready, or the puppets made and all scenery and the stage done, you will start dress rehearsals. Decide who you are to invite to the play (parents, other classes etc.) and the date and time. Make invitations.

6. Have several students design and make the program for their groups play. Make enough copies of the program for the guests.
7. Perform the plays!
8. Have each student complete the “Play Summary” worksheets for each of the other plays that they were not in.

Other Extended Activities

Cooking in the 1800's

Have a day of cooking recipes from the Pioneer days in the 1800's. Have the children come to school dressed as pioneers. You might want to have them bring some of the ingredients or you may supply them all yourself. Choose recipes from the following two books available for sale at the Early American Museum in Mahomet for only \$3.95.

Cookie Recipes by Bear Wallow Books

Old Pioneer Recipes by Bear Wallow Books