

Subject Area: History

Grade Level(s): All grade levels, but you must assure that the fictional literature used is appropriate to the grade level.

Title of instructional Method, Strategy, or Approach: Mingling 'Fact' with Fiction': Strategies for Integrating Literature into History and Social Studies Classrooms.

Description of each Instructional Method, Strategy, or Approach:

1. Era Driven: Select a historic event or era and find a corresponding fictional book or story.
2. Theme Based: Select a theme corresponding with a specific period of time or category in history and find a fictional story or book that relates accordingly.
3. Essential Questions: Choose a broad based essential question, and then select a fictional book or story that addresses the question. (i.e. Essential question: "What is worth dying for?" Example of related literature: *All Quiet on the Western Front*)
4. Identity Driven: Select a group of people or a particular person from an era in history and then choose a fictional book or story that clarifies the distinctiveness of that group of people or particular person.
5. Literature Based: Choose a particular fictional book or story on the topic of your choice and then plan the unit around it, making sure to hit important aspects of the text.

Conditions:

- Corresponding fictional story
- Alignment of topic and story
- This can also be a coordinated curriculum involving both History/Social Studies classrooms in addition to English/Reading classes

References in APA format:

Turk, D, Klein, E, & Dickstein, S (2007). Mingling 'fact' with 'fiction': Strategies for integrating literature into history and social studies classrooms. *The History Teacher*. 40(3).

Miller, C (2001). *All through the ages: History through literature guide*. Laporte, Colorado: Nothing New Press.

Nelson, L (1999). Learning History through Children's Literature. Retrieved August 27, 2007, from Social Studies Development Center Web site: <http://www.indiana.edu/~ssdc/hislitdig.htm>

“How-To” Information –

- Choose an event in history
- Select a fictional book or story that corresponds to the era (i.e. teacher may select an entire book or just choose to use part of a book or chapters; one example of a literary piece is *The Great Gatsby* which characterizes life of Americans during the Jazz age or Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, which was written during the McCarthy era with the topic being The Salem Witch Trials)
- Discuss aspects of the book that correspond to the era

- Discuss the social, cultural, and political context of the story in its relationship to the era
- Choose a theme related to a particular time period in history
- Use the story to address aspects of the theme
- Discuss an essential question that relates to the theme of the story
- Focus on a person or a group of people in history that the literature illuminates

Implications for Practice/Other Considerations: It is essential that the literature being used is at the grade level of the student

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