

Dialectic and Rhetoric Great Books List

Quarter 1 – Discovery through Government

Dialectic

Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos, by Robert Lawson
or

Sign of the Beaver, by Elizabeth Spears

Rhetoric

Read the *Constitution of the United States*, include excerpts from *Federalist Papers* and *Common Sense*, by Thomas Paine

Quarter 2 – Pioneers through Civil War

Dialectic

Rifles for Watie, by Harold Keith

Rhetoric

Red Badge of Courage, by Stephen Crane

Quarter 3 – Industrial Revolution through WWII

Dialectic

Casey at the Bat (poetry), by Ernest Thayer

Rhetoric

Death Comes for the Archbishop, by Willa Cather

Quarter 4 – Cold War through present, including state history

Dialectic

Animal Farm, by George Orwell

or

Lilies of the Field, by William E. Barrett

Rhetoric

Roe vs. Wade

or

Analyzing Rhetoric Study:

- Martin Luther King's I have a Dream Speech,
- The Gettysburg Address
- Declaration of Independence
- And others chosen from great American speeches

Dialectic and Rhetoric Great Books List

with notes and study guide links, print the page above to share with your families

Quarter 1 – Discovery through Government

Dialectic

Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos, by Robert

Lawson -- *Delightful story with historical accuracy. Easier to digest than the Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin.*

“Amos, Ben Franklin's brilliant mouse friend, is partially (or wholly responsible in some cases) for many of Mr.

Franklin's accomplishments, from the Franklin stove to his experiments with electricity to his negotiating with France for loans to finance the American revolution. In most of the book Amos is a participant or bystander when Mr. Franklin does things... The detail is incredible while the historical accuracy seems spot-on.” –Caroline Bookbinder,

blog.cseditorial.com

- Chapter by chapter lesson plans <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6dVjRmEOIPgVzBMUmw0VHA4Q1U/edit?usp=sharing>
- Art, drama, creative writing, science activities http://www.ilcactivities.org/reading_units/BenandMe.pdf

or **Sign of the Beaver** -- *The Sign of the Beaver tells the story of a 12-year-old boy, Matt James Hallowell, and his father, who, as early settlers, together build a log cabin in the wilderness of 18th century North America. Matt is left alone to guard the cabin while his father heads back east to collect his mother and sister. Alone, Matt has to work together with native Americans* --Wikipedia

- Nice homeschool unit study: http://www.homeschoolshare.com/sign_of_the_beaver.php
- Secular study with more advanced info. <http://eolit.hrw.com/hlla/novelguides/ms/Mini-Guide.speare-beaver.pdf>

(Johny Tremain, a great read on the revolutionary war, was removed, as next quarter's selections are both war stories)

Rhetoric

Read the *Constitution of the United States*

Include excerpts from *Federalist Papers* <https://www.thefederalistpapers.org/federalist-papers/federalist-papers-study-guide-federalist-1>

Common Sense, by Thomas Paine <http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-common-sense/themes.html>

Quarter 2 – Pioneers through Civil War

Dialectic

Rifles for Watie – *Rifles for Watie* is an American children's novel by Harold Keith. It was first published in 1957, and received the Newbery Medal the following year...., *Rifles for Watie* is written at an 8th grade advanced – 9th grade level.

Set during the American Civil War, the plot revolves around Jefferson Davis Bussey who is sixteen and caught up in the events of history. Actual historical personages (e.g. Generals Stand Watie and James G. Blunt) and battles (e.g. Wilson's Creek and Prairie Grove) are seen from the viewpoint of an ordinary soldier, enabled by the choice of protagonist. Harold Keith spent many years interviewing Civil War veterans and visiting the sites depicted in the book, resulting in an authenticity that is rare for historical fiction that targets a young adult audience.

The setting, west of the Mississippi, is also not typical of Civil War novels, so the reader gets a perspective on the war not generally available in other books, let alone one found in children's books. –Wikipedia

- Chapter vocabulary words, activities to pull it all together, secular from well-trained mind forum http://webmail.ops.org/socialstudies_web/Novel_Guide/Novel_Guide_Lesson_Plan_Grade_8/Acrobat/riflesForWaite.pdf
- Chapter by Chapter Questions, secular <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/education/components/docmgr/default.php?sectiondetailid=209362&fileitem=234970&catfilter=ALL>

Rhetoric

Red Badge of Courage, by Stephen Crane --*The Red Badge of Courage* is a war novel by American author Stephen Crane (1871–1900). Taking place during the American Civil War, the story is about a young private of the Union Army, Henry Fleming, who flees from the field of battle. Overcome with shame, he longs for a wound, a "red badge of courage," to counteract his cowardice. When his regiment once again faces the enemy, Henry acts as standard-bearer...The novel is known for its distinctive style, which includes realistic battle sequences as well as the repeated use of color imagery, and ironic tone.. –Wikipedia

- Too brief Study guide: <http://literatureguides.weebly.com/study-guide-for-red-badge-of-courage-by-stephen-crane.html>
- Too in-depth study guide: <http://literatureguides.weebly.com/study-guide-for-red-badge-of-courage-by-stephen-crane.html>
- Book study focusing on imagery <http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/red-badge-courage-new-kind-realism#sect-activities>
- Neat in-class activity after reading Ch. 5: http://edsitement.neh.gov/sites/edsitement.neh.gov/files/worksheets/The%20Red%20Badge%20of%20Courage_A%20New%20Kind%20of%20Realism_Master%20PDF.pdf

Quarter 3 – Industrial Revolution through WWII

Dialectic

Casey at the Bat (poetry) - "*Casey at the Bat: A Ballad of the Republic Sung in the Year 1888*" is a baseball poem written in 1888 by Ernest Thayer. First published in *The San Francisco Examiner* on June 3, 1888, it was later popularized by DeWolf Hopper in many vaudeville performances.^[1] It has become one of the best-known poems in American literature. –Wikipedia

- <http://ccsspoeetry.weebly.com/poetry-analysis.html>
- http://www.jefferson.k12.ky.us/departments/gheens/Curriculum%20Maps/Literacy%20Middle/Grade%207_GP_Literary2_RL.7.5,6TE.pdf Scroll down to page 4 to get past the standards mumble jumble.

Rhetoric

Death comes for the Archbishop, Willa Cather, set in mid-19th century *Death Comes for the Archbishop* is a 1927 novel by Willa Cather. It concerns the attempts of a Catholic bishop and a priest to establish a diocese in New Mexico Territory.

- <http://catholicfiction.net/book-review/death-comes-for-the-archbishop.php>
- <http://www.wordonfire.org/WoF-Blog/WoF-Blog/November-2012/Book-Club-Death-Comes-to-the-Archbishop-Questio.aspx>

Quarter 4 – Cold War through present, including state history

Dialectic

Animal Farm - A farm is taken over by its overworked, mistreated animals. With flaming idealism and stirring slogans, they set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Thus the stage is set for one of the most telling satiric fables ever penned- a razor-edged fairy tale for grown-ups that records the evolution from revolution against tyranny to a totalitarianism just as terrible. When *Animal Farm* was first published, Stalinist Russia was seen as its target. Today it is

devastatingly clear that wherever and whenever freedom is attacked, under whatever banner, the cutting clarity and savage comedy of George Orwell's masterpiece have a meaning and message still ferociously fresh. –Seton Books

- <http://www.mcduffie.k12.ga.us/webpages/baldowski/tenth.cfm?subpage=1041645> The Anticipation Guide and Study Guide is the one you will want for the scope of a 6 week discussion. The Power point is also nice. Everything else is probably too much info.

or Lilies of the Field (1960's) Homer Smith, an unemployed construction worker, heading out west stops at a remote farm in the desert to get water when his car overheats. The farm is being worked by a group of German Catholic nuns, headed by the strict Mother Maria, who believes that Homer has been sent by God to build a much needed church in the desert...modern-day fable about the power of faith and determination. A story about German nuns and an itinerant black ex-soldier, but also about the mysterious ways of God. 127 pp. –Seton Books

Rhetoric

Roe vs. Wade, read assenting and dissenting opinions—that alone will change how students view this topic, allowing them to form strong opinions as they head to adulthood. Seton has an excellent studyguide.

or Analyzing Rhetoric Study:

- Martin Luther King's I have a Dream Speech,
- The Gettysburg Address (<http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/speech-analysis-gettysburg-address-abraham-lincoln/>)
- Declaration of Independence http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_style.html, <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/pages/1246>
- And others chosen from great American speeches (www.americanrhetoric.org for audio clips of modern speeches, or "The World's Great Speeches" for written)

The five canons of rhetoric, which trace the traditional tasks in designing a persuasive speech, were first codified in classical Rome: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. Along with grammar and logic (or dialectic—see Martianus Capella), rhetoric is one of the three ancient arts of discourse. –Wikipedia

The classical model is a five-stage process, consisting of invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. After the Ramists excluded invention and arrangement, and memory and delivery dwindled into elocution, American writing courses, in their focus on one stage, style, had lost a sense of writing as a process --

<http://bedfordstmartins.com/Catalog/static/bsm/bb/history.html> (a long, but enlightening article about how we got where we are in rhetoric education-Kathy)