

Unit 1 Grade 6 Old Yeller by Fred Gibson

Synopsis:

At first, Travis couldn't stand the sight of Old Yeller. The stray dog was ugly, and a thieving rascal, too. But he sure was clever, and a smart dog could be a big help on the wild Texas frontier, especially with Papa away on a long cattle drive up to Abilene.

Strong and courageous, Old Yeller proved that he could protect Travis's family from any sort of danger. But can Travis do the same for Old Yeller?

Big Ideas and Key Understanding:

- Courage, Bravery, Heroism
- Farm and Ranch Life
- Loyalty

Key Words and Vocabulary Activities:

Aggravated

Astride

Binding

Carcass

Careen

Commotion

Dingy

Check out this online Old Yeller vocabulary game!

<http://www.vocabulary.co.il/context-and-definitions/middle-school/old-yeller-context-match/>

Pre Reading Questions:

Based on the cover of the book, can you predict what Old Yeller is about?

Read Book:

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways does Travis prove himself to be “man of the house” while his father is away?
2. Does Travis mature in any ways? How?
3. How did Old Yeller win the respect of Travis?
4. How did Old Yeller save the lives of everyone on the farm?
5. Why is Papa proud of Travis?

Extension Activities:

Watch the movie Old Yeller. How is it different from the book? What did you enjoy more, the movie or the book?

Write another chapter in Old Yeller. Does the new puppy, sired by Old Yeller, have the same character qualities as his father?

Grade 6 Unit 1 Surviving the Applewhites by Stephanie Tolan

Synopsis:

Word is Jack Semple was kicked out of every school in his home state. Now, the only place that will take him is the Creative Academy, a home school run by a chaotic, quarrelsome family named Applewhite. When Jake meets E.D. Applewhite, a scruffy girl longing for order, the only thing they have in common is the determination to survive the family's eccentricities. Jake thinks this will be a breeze. But is he really as tough or as bad as he seems?

Big Ideas and Key Understanding:

- Drama, Theater, Musicals
- Manners and Conduct
- Pride and Self-Esteem
- Friends and Friendship
- School Life

Key Words and Vocabulary Activities:

Scarlet

Haphazard

Indispensable

Zany

Juvenile

Delinquent

Artistic

Create a comic strip using the vocabulary words listed above!

Using flash cards, define each word and then use it in a sentence. See how many you get right the first time around!

Pre- Reading Questions:

What is an example of living an eccentric life?

Maybe your own family is eccentric? If so how are they eccentric?

Have you ever stayed with an eccentric family? How did you feel? Did you change the way you thought about the way you do things based on that experience?

Read Book:

Discussion Questions:

What is the "Creative Academy" and how does Jake Semple end up going there?

List all the members of the Applewhite family and explain what each of their talents or jobs is.

What is involved in E.D.'s Butterfly Project? What does she need to do to complete it?

Why does E.D. think she is different than the other Applewhites? What are they like? What is she like?

Why doesn't Jake run away from the Applewhites and Wits End? What would happen to him if he did?

Extension Activities:

Design an advertisement for the Applewhite's production of "The Sound of Music". Include the name of the production, cast members and where it will take place!

What project would you be working on if you were at the Creative Academy?

Draw a map of the Applewhite family property. Use colored pencils to color-code the buildings. Include a title as well as a key or legend.