

Curriculum Laboratory

Lesson Plans That Integrate Literature Into Different Subject Areas And Grades



In the summer of 2009, the following student teachers participated in a directed study and seminar class. They were: Christina Abma, Braden Dalton, Kristen Dow, Erin Lyons, Shane Orr, Sara Ritchie, Ivy Waite, Jessica Wright. The students created their own lesson plans used in the classroom, or lessons they will plan to use in the future. We hope you also may find some of these activities useful in your classroom. You have our permission to copy these lessons for your own classroom use.

More lesson plans and teaching units that integrate literature across the curriculum, designed by Curriculum Laboratory staff members, can be found on our [Teaching Ideas Showcase Website](#).

Language Arts Titles:

Dalton, Braden. (2009). [Getting to the Point](#). In this lesson, students will review punctuation rules and learn new rules, resulting in a more efficient and effective writer. The teacher and students will be responsible for directing parts of the lesson. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grades 3-4. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Pulver, Robin (2003). **Punctuation Takes a Vacation**. New York: Holiday House.

Waite, Ivy. (2009). ["My Name": Using literature to prompt narrative writing across the grades](#). **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grades 7-12. **Literature titles used in this lesson:** Cisneros, Sandra (1984). **The House on Mango Street**. New York: Vintage Contemporaries. Henkes, Kevin (1991). **Chrysanthemum**. New York: Greenwillow Books.

Mathematics Titles:

Ritchie, Sara. (2009). ["The Greedy Triangle" and Other Friendly Polygons](#). A literature incorporated math lesson that helps children in grade 3 learn the names of polygons and recognize their forms. This lesson is also useful in identifying where these forms may be seen in the real world. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grade 3. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Burns, M (1994). **The Greedy Triangle**. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc..

Ritchie, Sara. (2009). [Teaching Polygons Through Tangrams](#). Through the use of Ann Tompert's "Grandfather Tang's Story" and tangrams, math and literature integrate for the successful teaching of grade 3 shapes. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grade 3. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Tompert, A (1990). **Grandfather Tang's Story**. New York, NY: Crown Publishers.

Science Titles:

Abma, Christine. (2009). [Discovering Seasons](#). In this lesson, students will explore the different seasons. They will learn to distinguish and describe each season through speaking, writing and through visual representations. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Grade 1 Useful for grades Pre-K -3. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Brown, Margaret W. (2001). **Love Song of the Little Bear**. New York, NY: Hyperion Books for Children.

Orr, Shane. (2009). [Finding the Epicenter](#). A science lesson integrated with literature to give grade 7 students a visual understanding of earthquakes and the different theories of earthquakes both contemporary and ancient. I will also introduce different types of waves and how gathering information about these waves helps scientists to locate where an earthquake occurred. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grades 7. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Mehta-Jones, Shilpa (2004). **Earthquake Alert**. Crabtree Publishing Company.

Wright, Jessica. (2009). [Building Bridges](#). In this lesson, students will learn what it is like for children to go to school in India. After discussing the many ways children in India get to school, students will be challenged to use their building and testing skills they have learned in science to build a bridge similar to the one in the book, *Going to School in India*. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grade 3. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Heydlauff, Lisa (2005). **Going to School in India**. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishers.

Social Studies Titles:

Dow, Kristen. (2009). [Age of exploration from a different perspective](#). The focus of this lesson is to encourage students to analyze the historical event of Columbus' first arrival to the New World through the perspective of the Indigenous peoples he encountered. This lesson is designed to help students develop an appreciation for differing beliefs, values and worldviews. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grade 8. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Yolen, Jane. (1992). **Encounter**. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers.

Dow, Kristen. (2009). [Quality of Life - Importance of Shelter](#). The focus of this lesson is to help students understand and appreciate the value of shelter as a determining factor for assessing quality of life. For many young students, the concept of not having a home to go to at the end of the day may be difficult to do. By incorporating a story into the lesson that describe how a young boy lives in an airport, students will be able to conceptualize the meaning of homelessness and how it affects one's quality of life. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grade 2-5. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Bunting, Eva. (1991). **Fly Away Home**. Clairon Books, New York.

Art Titles:

Abma, Christine. (2009). [Discovering Colours](#). In this lesson, students will explore coloured materials and learn about different colours. They will also learn to distinguish and describe colours using the terms warm and cool. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Grade 1 Useful for grades Pre-K -3. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Thong, Roseanne (2001). **Red is a Dragon**. Vancouver, BC: Raincoast Books.

French Titles:

Dalton, Braden. (2009). [Le passé dans le cabinet des fées: le petit chaperon rouge](#). In this lesson, advanced students in French (Immersion, Second Language) will practice grammatical concepts of varying degrees of difficulty, using selection "Le petit chaperon rouge" from "Le cabinet de fées" edited by Georges Gérard. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Useful for grades 11-12. **Literature title used in this lesson:** Gérard, Georges (Ed.) (1858). **Le cabinet des fées, or Recreative Readings, Arranged for the Express Use of Students in French**. Project Gutenberg (online) : <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/28891> .

Physical Education Titles:

Lyons, Erin. (2009). [Hockey - a sport education model](#). The aim/ focus of this lesson is to get students thinking about the game of hockey and the concept of team pride. This lesson is also designed to show students the importance of teamwork and fair play. **Recommended Grade levels of the lesson plan:** Upper elementary to grade 7. **Literature titles used in this lesson:** Bouchard, David. & Griffiths, Dean. (2002). **That's Hockey**. Orca Book Publishers, British Columbia, Canada. As well as, Carrier, Roch. & Cohen, Sheldon. (1979) **The Hockey Sweater**. Tundra Books, Quebec, Canada.

Website prepared by Bill Glaister, Curriculum Laboratory Coordinator, Summer 2009.