

AMERICA'S MENAGERIE: FROM MICE TO MEN TO MOCKINGBIRDS

I. ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. Why were so many people compelled to search the country to look for employment during the 1930's?
2. In what ways has prejudice manifested itself in American history, ie. a multi-cultural nation?
3. What can be more damaging: an obvious act of prejudice or the subtle insidious policies of discrimination?
4. In what ways does a child change in his journey of adolescence?
5. Have there been any changes in the criminal justice system since the trial of Tom Robinson and the trial of O.J. Simpson?
6. What has the greatest effect on the American tapestry: its physical diversity or cultural diversity?
7. What responsibilities does the United States have as a result of its great wealth and military strength as a member of the world community?
8. How are the lives of Hopalong residents affected as a result of living in a Megalopolis?

II. OBJECTIVES

Students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Identify the decade and evaluate the underlying economic causes of the Great Depression.
2. Recognize the many faces of prejudice, ie. race, gender, physical handicap, mental inabilities.
3. Develop an understanding of the developmental phases the characters go through in their coming of age.
4. Compare the criminal justice system and its treatment of blacks in pre and post Civil Rights Movement America.
5. Explore the dynamics of a lasting friendship as it applies to characters in the text.
6. Analyze the choices made by characters when faced with moral dilemmas.

7. Analyze the diverse nature of the United States by comparing/contrasting the various landform regions.
8. Classify the various climates found in the United States.
9. Analyze patterns of population.
10. Evaluate the United States' role in the world.
11. Compare/contrast the unique nature of the various regions of the United States in terms of demographics, physical make-up, historical development, and cultural influences.
12. Define the term Megalopolis, identify the regions identified as, and the impact said regions have on the surrounding areas.
13. Relate a basic knowledge of the Morris Canal in so far as its route, world-renowned reputation, and impact on New Jersey and the Lake Hopatcong community.

3. RESOURCES/MATERIALS

- ✂ Textbooks
- ✂ To Kill A Mockingbird (Harper Lee)
- ✂ Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck)
- ✂ Selected short stories of US and Canada: Into the Widening World
- ✂ Selected poetry by American and Canadian poets
- ✂ Videos
- ✂ Internet
- ✂ Field trip: Morris Canal Museum at Waterloo Village
- ✂ Maps
- ✂ Almanac

XI. MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

1. Create a diary entry of a character in Of Mice and Men depicting the personality and voice of that character.
2. Write a poem on discrimination addressing the emotional, psychological and physical limitations it presents.
3. Role play the court proceedings including the jury, judge, witnesses, etc. for the trial of George Milton accused of killing Lennie Small in Of Mice and Men.

4. Maintain a bi-weekly journal expressing feelings, questions, conclusions you've reached during the reading of To Kill A Mockingbird.
5. A Memory Box@ sharing experience Present to the class your childhood memory box (similar to Scout and Jem's from Boo Radley in To Kill A Mockingbird) explaining the significance of each item.
6. Thematic map of the United States.
7. US Vacation Trip-Tic
8. Through the use of Current Events, the students will compare present day Black justice@ with Tom Robinson's trial of the 1930's.
9. Create a demographics map of the US utilizing the data from the 2000 census.
10. Construct a photo mosaic of the US.

XII. CATEGORIES FOR ASSESSMENT

- ✂ Writing pieces
- ✂ Performance based
- ✂ Technology presentations
- ✂ Teacher designed tests/quizzes

V. ASSESSMENT

- ✂ Thematic map models
- ✂ Diary projects
- ✂ Journals
- ✂ Double entry notebooks
- ✂ Writing poetry on discrimination
- ✂ Oral presentation: Memory Box
- ✂ Mock trial
- ✂ Collage on prejudice
- ✂ US Vacation Trip-Tic
- ✂ US map Cstates and capitals quiz

Write a reaction paper to a selection of On The Road by Jack Kerouac, Studs Terkel, or Charles Kuralt. Discuss your rationale for your selection and react.