

Barn Stories #2

Subject: Social Studies: Agriculture: Language Arts: Agriculture

Grade Level: 6-8

McRel Standards: US History Era 6: The development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)

Benchmark: Understands how the rise of corporations, heavy industry, and mechanized farming transformed American society.

Iowa Model Core Literacy: Writing: Uses writing as a tool for learning

Curriculum: Uses an effective writing process
 Uses knowledge of purpose, audience formant, and medium in developing written communication.

Anticipatory Set: The barn on a farm has always been a hub of activity. The traditional barn in history might have been a place for a farmer to store his grain, shelter his livestock, repair broken farming equipment, and milk the cows. Each barn has a unique story to tell, just as the livestock who lived and worked there, and the families that built and used the barns.

Objective: Students will write a short story about life in a barn. They can create their short story from the perspective of one of the animals that lived in the barn. The short story should also include a historical time period. The student should fill out a story web first (see attached sheet) to begin the writing process.

Teaching to the objective:

1. Have students identify different types of animals that might have used their imaginary barn.
2. Have students identify an historical time period for their barn (ie. 1850, 1925, etc.)
3. Discuss what different barns would have looked like in different historical time periods. How does this impact the role of the barn and the role of farmer?
4. Students are to fill out a story web to organize their thoughts in the writing process.
5. Students will write a short story and illustrate their short story.
6. Students will share their barn stories with the class.

Assessment: Students will be graded on creativity, use of correct grammar, punctuation and spelling. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the “short story” format by writing a barn short story.

Literature Suggestions:

Ages 9-12

Chester's Barn
Husking, Quiltings, and Barn Raisings
The Barn
Drylongos
"Little House Series"
A Gathering of Days
Red Sky at Morning
The Winter Room
Martin's Mice

Climo
Sherrow
Avi
Hamilton
Wilder
Blos
Wyman
Paulsen
King-Smith

Junior High

Annie's Choice
Beyond Providence
Farm Team
Over the Water
The Yearling
A Day No Pigs Would Die
Bert Breen's Barn

Clark
Schunur
Weaver
Casey
Rawlings
Peck
Edmonds