

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: The Butter Battle Book.

Author: Dr. Seuss

Publisher/Date: Random House, 1984.

Grade Levels: K - 12

Summary: Engaged in a long-running battle, the Yooks and the Zooks develop more and more sophisticated weaponry as they attempt to outdo each other.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. The students can investigate the rhyming patterns and practice the phonetic sounding-out of the made-up nonsense words to help develop their decoding skills.
2. Ask the students to write an end to the story telling what they think will happen.. This could be done individually, in pairs, or in small groups.
3. Re-read the story as a play with students taking turns with the narration and spoken parts. Practice reading so that the students read with expression and rhythm.

Vocabulary/Spelling

despondent	faucets	gutter	promoted
shame	soul	sputter	switch
underneath	vigor	vim	weapon

Communication Arts Connections

1. The students will write down the made-up nonsense words from the story and, by using context clues, they will determine if those words are nouns, verbs, or adjectives. This will help develop skill at using context clues for comprehension.
2. The students will listen for rhythms in the verses that can help with reading the story with expression.
3. Hold a debate about whether it is better to eat bread butter-side-up or butter-side-down. This will help students learn to support their opinions and will give them practice in public speaking.

Media Center Connections

1. With older students, watch a video about Hiroshima to give a better understanding about the impact of bombs. Talk about what would lead a country to drop a bomb like that.
2. Research countries fighting over cultural differences, such as Northern Ireland and England, and discuss whether it is worth fighting over.
3. Read other stories where the characters are fighting over differing opinions or silly matters. Discuss ways to end the battle peacefully.

Social Studies Connections

1. Talk about various walls that have been built in history. Why were these walls built? Are they still standing?
2. Look at cultural differences and discuss the importance of accepting different ways of doing things.
3. Compare this story with wars from history (or current events to see if there are any similarities with the progression from peace to war. Talk about the arms race and current disarmament treaties.

Mathematics Connections

1. Count the number of inventions made by each side in the Butter Battle and graph them showing the features each had.
2. Talk about the kinds of math skills that would be necessary to invent things - simple inventions to complex inventions (measuring, calculating, physics, geometry, etc).

Science Connections

1. Study how inventions have impacted our lives, such as the automobile, refrigerators, airplanes, elevators, medical technology, computers, etc. Have these inventions been good for society? Are there any negative aspects of these inventions?
2. Talk about how war has changed from ancient times with armor and lances, to present day atomic and chemical weapons. How have advances in science changed warfare, and has science made warfare less deadly?

Music Connections

1. Listen to songs written about or during times of war, such as those representing each of the armed forces, marches, and songs to build patriotism and spirit. How were/are these songs used during times of war and times of peace?