

# Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

**Title:** *Lyddie*.

**Author:** Katherine Paterson

**Publisher/Date:** Lodestar Books, 1991

**Grade Level:** 5-7

**Summary:** An impoverished farm girl named Lyddie Worthen works hard to gain her independence. She moves from her home in Vermont to Lowell, Massachusetts to work in a factory. Her goal is to earn enough money to buy back her family's farm and have all of her loved ones together again.

## READING/WRITING

1. Have students look up ingredients needed to make homemade butter.
2. Have students bring ingredients to school to put in butter churn.
3. Have students write the steps to making butter in a how-to type book.
4. Have them follow their directions and make the butter.
5. Provide bread for students to taste the butter.
6. Have students discuss and write their thoughts about the butter and what they would do differently to make it better.
7. Discuss predictions of differences and similarities between eating habits now and in the 1800s.
8. Show the book. Introduce the main character, Lyddie. Have students make predictions based on front cover.
9. Introduce Katherine Paterson, the author, to students. Share all of the research that she did to write this book. (This is found at the end of the book).
10. During the reading of the novel, ask students to predict what will happen next based on the titles of the chapters.

## VOCABULARY/SPELLING

abolitionists	adversary	aristocratic	boardinghouse	calico
doffer	flax	fortnight	gingerly	heifer
humiliate	petition	princely	radicals	scrivener
servitude	summoned	trousseau	turpitude	underbrush

## LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

1. Share other titles by the author:  
*Angels and Other Strangers*  
*Bridge to Terabithia*  
*Come Sing, Jimmy Jo*  
*Consider the Lilies*  
*The Crane Wife*  
*The Great Gilly Hopkins*  
*Jacob Have I Loved*  
*The Master Puppeteer*  
*Of Nightingales That Weep*  
*Park's Quest*  
*The Sign of the Chrysanthemum*  
*The Tale of the Mandarin Ducks*

*The Tongue-Cut Sparrow.*

2. Direct students where they can find more information about life in the 1840's.

### **SCIENCE/MATH CONNECTIONS**

1. Research the effects of breathing polluted air for a long period of time.
2. Identify/research ways we could clean our air today.
3. Design and display posters around school to encourage 'clean-air' practices.
4. Discuss inflation. Of the items mentioned in the story, have students estimate how much they would cost at various time in the future.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

1. Have students choose a scene from the book and act out with a small group.
2. Have students write a chapter about Lyddie's first year in college.
3. Have students discuss whether they liked the ending, or if they were hoping it would have ended in a different way.
4. Read the book that Lyddie was intrigued by - *Oliver Twist*. Relate similarities between Oliver and Lyddie.
5. Share other books by Charles Dickens. Have students discuss why these are considered classics.

### **SOCIAL STUDIES**

1. Have students find the books the author used to research this period of history: *Farm to Factory: Women's Letters 1830-1860*; *Women at Work: The Transformation of Work and Community in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1826-1860*; *The Golden Threads: New England's Mill Girls and Magnates*; *Mill and the Vermont Historical Gazetteer*.
2. Find Vermont and Lowell, Massachusetts of the U.S. map. Have students calculate how many miles between them. Estimate how long it would have taken Lyddie to walk there as she had originally planned before she was offered a ride.

### **ART CONNECTIONS**

1. Use watercolors to design a new book cover. This could be of the family, of Lyddie during her journey to Lowell, of the farm, or of her at college.

### **PUBLISHING**

1. Have students write and share letters of recommendation for Lyddie to get into college.
2. Have students share their Chapter 24, *Lyddie Goes to College* that they have written.