

Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

Title: *My Great-Aunt Arizona*

Author: Gloria Houston

Publisher/Date: HarperCollins, 1992.

Grade level: 4

Summary: An Appalachian girl Arizona Houston Hughes, grows up to become a teacher who influences generations of schoolchildren.

Reading/Writing Connections

1. Read the title of the book. Explain to the children the relationship of a great aunt to them, Ask them if they have a special great aunt in their lives.
2. Sketch a family tree that illustrates the relationship of a great aunt. After the students read the story, see if they can tell how Arizona was related to the author.
3. Talk about books that students have read about other relatives.
4. Suppose you lived in the mountains of North Carolina in a log cabin, write about the way you think your life would be.
5. Use the Internet and find an elementary school in the mountains of North Carolina, Make arrangements to have pen pals with the school.
6. Talk about the way schools were when Aunt Arizona started teaching and the progress that has been made over the years, 7. Write about a far away place that you would like to visit one day,

VOCABULARY/SPELLING

Arizona	beautiful	blab	Blue Ridge Mountains
braids	carpenter	cavalry	chalkboards
faraway	fiddler	flowers	galax
ginseng roots	mailman	mountain	petticoats
tadpoles	taught	village	

LANGUAGE CONNECTIONS

1. Pretend that the year is 1908. On this day do not use pencils, paper, school books, videos or computers. Dress in the styles of the era.
2. Teacher and students can write a play based on the book, *My Aunt Arizona*. The characters and title could stay the same or be changed.

MATH CONNECTIONS

1. Have students practice some "Arizona Math" problem solving together. Teacher can make up problems from the book, for example, if Arizona was 93 years old when she died in 1967, what year was she born?
2. Teacher can also make up math problems about herself.

SCIENCE CONNECTIONS

1. Take on a school project of planing flowers-daffodils or tulip bulbs in the school yard to honor teachers at your school or you could plant and give the teachers flowers individually.
2. Explain how plants grow in the springtime.

SOCIAL STUDIES CONNECTIONS

1. Tell your students historical events that occurred in the United States from 1908 - 1909.
2. Make a list of the historical events and place them on a timeline.