

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus Novel Study

Grades 7-8

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Objectives



The students will be introduced to the literary style of the American author, L. Frank Baum.



The students will recognize and respond to key elements of a novel.



The students will identify literary devices in a novel.



The students will develop abilities to express opinions through a variety of genres.



The students will increase their appreciation of Christmas and the value of giving.



The students will identify complex elements of grammar and use them in their writing.



The students will increase their knowledge of words and the way in which they are formed and connected.



The students will apply a variety of reading strategies to improve their understanding of the text.



The students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the changes which have occurred over decades of time, regarding language usage.

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Teacher Suggestions



The teacher should read the novel before any class assignments or class discussions take place.



Read the novel together in class. This allows the teacher to be certain that all students have read the novel and that everyone will be prepared to begin the assignments. It also gives the teacher the opportunity to assess individual oral reading skills, discuss vocabulary, address concerns of comprehension of a passage and receive immediate feedback from students.



The terminology used in the novel dates to the early 1900's. The teacher should discuss the changes in the usage of some words today and be prepared to explain the meanings of certain passages.



A specified number of activities should be assigned for completion.



Comprehension questions may be assigned and marked on a daily basis.



Other activities may be used after the completion of several chapters or the entire novel. A cover page for the student portfolio is provided.



Copy the tracking sheets and activity sheets for the students to use.



Assign a research topic to an individual or group. Work cooperatively with your teacher-librarian to assist the students with their research.



Use the Extension activities to enhance the students' learning and stimulate interest and research.



Display pictures, books, filmstrips and posters pertaining to Christmas and Santa Claus.

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Comprehension

Youth

Chapter 1

1. Describe the Forest of Burzee.
2. Who were the inhabitants of the Forest of Burzee?

Chapter 2

1. What were Necile's duties in the Forest of Burzee?
2. How was the young new-born protected?

Chapter 3

1. Why did Necile want to keep the baby?
2. What did Ak decide regarding Necile keeping the baby?

Chapter 4

1. What was the baby named and what does this name mean?
2. What were the duties of the Knooks, Ryls, and Fairies?

Chapter 5

1. How did Claus physically change over the years?
2. How did Necile react when she was told that Claus would be leaving her to accompany Ak?

Chapter 6

1. How was Claus transported to the land of the mortals?
2. What was the purpose of this trip?

Chapter 7

1. What has Claus chosen for his mission in life?
2. What did Ak allow Claus to take with him from Burzee?



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Creative Writing

Creative Writing Activity # 1

Create your own Family Christmas Book. Use the accompanying activity sheets to write your book.

1. Title Page - title, author, year, illustrator
2. Book Dedication - write a dedication and illustrate
3. What is Christmas? - write a paragraph and illustrate
4. Poem - write a poem about Christmas and illustrate
5. Christmas Memories - write a paragraph and illustrate
6. Christmas in the Future - write a paragraph and illustrate
7. Traditions - describe your family's Christmas traditions
8. The End - illustrate a Christmas scene

Creative Writing Activity # 2

Frank Baum wrote *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus* to explain the existence of Santa Claus.

Write an imaginary story to explain the origin of one of the following Christmas items.

1. the Angel placed atop a Christmas tree
2. the poinsettia flower
3. the traditional red suit that Santa wears