

2016 Classroom Resources – Elementary Law Day Theme – “The Rule of Law as Portrayed in Art— from Comedy to Tragedy”

References to the rule of law in the arts are extensive. Selected readings lists for fifth graders are good sources of books with reference to the law. Fairy tales and nursery rhymes, too, abound with hidden meanings and messages, some of which are related to the law. Here are some examples:

BOOKS

Literature with Social Studies Themes

Includes History, Civics, and Government topics

Delaware Center for Teacher Education, University of Delaware

<http://www.udel.edu/dssep/literature.html>

Fifth Grade Summer Reading List

Includes *Anne Frank*, *The Diary of a Young Girl* and *Holes*, a story about a juvenile detention center in the desert where the boys must each dig a 5' by 5' hole every day as punishment.

http://www.educationworld.com/summer_reading/5th_grade.shtml

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

This classic novel about a young girl and her attorney father Atticus Finch, who defends an innocent black man in the South, may be considered by some to be too advanced for 5th graders. However, Scholastic lists its reading level equivalent as 5.6. The book's popularity is sure to see a resurgence, as its author died on February 19, 2016, at the age of 89. The book may be found in school or public libraries.

“Dr. Seuss: The Truth Behind His Books”

By Melanie Mazzei

Published by Huskies' Adventures in Wonderland, Children's Literature, Spring 2013

Suggests *The Lorax* may be a message about Environmentalism; *The Sneetches* about World War II; *Yertle the Turtle* about Hitler and Individualism; etc.

<https://huskiesinwonderland.wordpress.com/2013/02/21/dr-seuss-the-truth-behind-his-books-melanie-mazzei/>

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MOCK TRIALS BASED UPON DR. SEUSS STORIES:

- Mock Trial based on Dr. Seuss (*The Lorax*, etc.)
Learning to Give (Website)
<http://learningtogive.org/lessons/unit94/lesson5.html>

- *Yertle the Turtle (Free online)*
American Bar Association
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/resources/resources_for_judges_lawyers/4-6/46_dueprocess_yertle.html
- *Cat in the Hat*
Original Script Courtesy of Burlington County Superior Court of New Jersey, Law Day Committee, and the 2011-2012 Law Clerks.
Send email to cindy@nebarfnd.org to request a copy of this script written in Dr. Seuss rhyming style.

NURSERY RHYMES/FAIRY TALES

“The Shocking, Twisted Stories Behind Your Favorite Nursery Rhymes”

By Claire Fallon

Published by The Huffington Post, 2014

- Baa Baa Black Sheep – refers to feudal times in England when there was a harsh tax on wool, leaving little for the farmers and their families
- Little Jack Horner – the “pie” may have been filled with deeds to a number of manors, one of which steward Thomas Horner, pulled out a deed to a “plum” piece of property for himself
- Plus other nursery rhymes analyzed.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/20/nursery-rhymes-real-stories_n_6180428.html

SONGS

Patriotic Melodies

The Library of Congress

Tells the stories behind many of the songs that have now become part of the American national heritage.

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/html/patriotic/patriotic-home.html>

Law Day Job Shadowing for Fifth Graders Sponsored by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation and the Nebraska Supreme Court