

## Books Taught/Resources Used/Grade Level/Comments

*Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt

9-10; 7-12

Contemporary Classics (Perfection Learning)

Good growing-up theme; family loyalty; figurative expression.

A tear-jerker about a boy growing up in southern Illinois during the Civil War.

*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

11-12; 7-12

Novel Ideas (Sundance)

posters (Perfection Learning)

video (not the current hit)

*Reader's Digest* "And Here Comes Huck!" June 1974

Symbolism, superstitions, irony, characterization, easy to create short scenes to act, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, dialect.

*Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman

7-12

Novel Units (This teacher's packet was not as helpful as others I have used.)

Great adventure story! Based on true accounts of climbing the Matterhorn. Good growing up theme. Afterwards the students were divided into groups and did skits that they wrote. We had a lot of fun.

*Ben Hur* by Lew Wallace

11-12 unabridged; 7-8 abridged in BJ Press *Excursions in Literature*

Lifeview (Mott Media)

Excellent, but very long--requires at least two weeks; intricate plot; characterization; vengeance; love; adventure.

*The Contender* by Robert Lipsyte

9-12

Novel Ideas (Sundance)

Some objectionable elements. Students really like this book. Gives them a view of inner city life. Good motivator to overcome difficulties. (The sequel to this book is NOT o.k.)

*Deathwatch* by Robb White

9-12; 7-12

Novel Ideas (Sundance)

This is my favorite; the best book I've found for hooking the reluctant reader. Guys love it. Can get good discussion especially over ending.

Perseverance, forgiveness, justice, survival, adventure, cause-effect, conflict.

Activities: diary, death notice, map, want ad, letter.

Other books by Robb White include *Up Periscope*, *The Survivor*.

*Endless Steppe* by Esther Hautzig

7-12

LIFT (Literature is for Thinking; Sundance)

Story of a Jewish family exiled to Siberia during WWII. Their exile ended up saving their lives but at the end of the war their home was in Russian territory so they could not return to it. Excellent. My students really enjoyed this one!

*Great Expectations*

9 (abridged); 9-12 (unabridged)

Insight (Sundance)

*Adventures in Reading* text and teacher's manual

*Literary Cavalcade* (March 1987), pp. 8-40, simplified play form videos

Characterization; growing up; wealth vs. friends/family; appearance; loyalty; easy to create short scenes to act; charades of characters' mannerisms for review--really fun!; very long-- takes two or more weeks.

*Hard Times*

11th

I created mini-plays which the students acted out with mini-props. As a whole this is a very difficult book for the students. I prefer *Great Expectations*, which is used more often anyhow.

*The Light in the Forest* by Conrad Richter

7-8

Contemporary Classics (Perfection Learning)

Indian captivity; white vs. Indian lifestyle; choices; growing up.

*Macbeth*

9-12

Audio cassette (Caedmon)

Used Folger Library Edition of play

Video available

Masterprose (Perfection Learning)

Cliff's Notes

Posters from *The Shakespeare Plays* a BBC-TV and Time-Life Television production w/ grants from Exxon, Metropolitan Life, and Morgan Guaranty, 1983 Tel Ed, Inc. Includes large poster of all Shakespeare's plays, teacher's guide, and student handouts.

"The Macbeth Murder Mystery" by James Thurber

Free material from the Morgan Bank, 1987 Tel Ed, Inc.

Misplaced values; ambition; guilt; domino effect of sin; students created a news broadcast from play.

*Merchant of Venice*

9-12

Masterprose (Perfection Learning)

Student's Study Guide (Perfection Learning)--I bought one copy and picked out questions to make my own study guide.

Video

Use with audio cassette.

Justice/mercy; prejudice

*No Promises in the Wind* by Irene Hunt

7-12

Novel Aids (Sundance)

Growing up; family love; forgiveness; anger; first love; bitterness.

Two boys leave home during the Great Depression. Literary qualities include symbolism, personification, simile, metaphor.

"Rappaccini's Daughter" and "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment" by Nathaniel Hawthorne

9-12

The Write Way (Sundance)

We compared these short stories with one in our anthology--all have Hawthorne's mad scientist. You can get "Rappaccini's Daughter" published individually by Perfection Learning. The video for "Rappaccini's Daughter" is excellent; it is part of the American Short Story Series.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor

9-12; 7-12

Portals to Reading Series (Perfection Learning)--really upper elementary level.

Novel Aids (Sundance)

Also read *Song of the Trees* (short enough to read in one class), prelude to *Roll of Thunder*; encouraged students to read sequel *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*.

Black family in south during depression; growing up; prejudice; family; responsibility; determination; obedience to parents; conviction; literary qualities: apostrophe, metaphor, symbolism, description, personification, simile.

*Shane* by Jack Schaefer

7-8

Contemporary Classics (Perfection Learning)

video

Family loyalty; love; choices; heroes; characterization; objectionable element : dozen swear words.

*Silas Marner*

10th

I only taught this book once since it appeared in my literature anthology. I think a paperback edition would be more successful.

*Tale of Two Cities*

11-12

Novel Ideas Plus (Sundance); Masterprose (Perfection Learning)

video (There are two excellent versions out. The one that is hard to find and costs about \$40.00 is the best.)

*Ten Little Indians (or And Then There Were None)* by Agatha Christie

9-12

Contemporary Classics (Perfection Learning)

video (get the black and white; I used the color--PREVIEW!)

a great mystery; good characterization; objectionable element--some swearing

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

11-12; 9-12

Contemporary Classics (Perfection Learning)

video--excellent

Literary quality very high (includes: characterization, allusion, symbolism, theme, description); prejudice; growing up; family; tear-jerker; some objectionable elements--read this one again before you decide; I wouldn't teach it below 9th grade; in some situations the lessons outweigh the objectionable elements if objections are dealt with in class.

*Romeo and Juliet*

9-12

Three Shakespeare Themes (free material from TelEd, Inc., 7449 Melrose Av., L.A., CA 90046)

video (BE SURE TO PREVIEW!)

Students were assigned parts to read. Afterwards they posed for "family pictures"!

*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

7-8

Novel Aids (Sundance)

video

Answered prayer; hard work; boy and his dogs; tear-jerker; determination; family responsibility; persistence; sportsmanship; personification, metaphor, figurative language.