

## Quilt Qualities

**Developed by:** Erin Montgomery, 2015 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

**Discipline:** Character Education/Reading historical text

**Topic:** Traveling quilt

**Grade Level:** Any grade level

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:** Traveling quilt (<http://travelingquilt.com/>) Book – *Iditarod Classics* by Lew Freedman

**Lesson Summary:** Students will be discussing the qualities a musher must have in order to run the Iditarod. Students will read a story from *Iditarod Classics*, and come up with a quality the musher they read about had while on the trail. Students will then take the quality and design a quilt square. In the end we will have a quality from the stories that starts with each letter of the word IDITAROD.

**Standards Addressed:** Iowa Core Standards

RI.7.3 Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

SL.7.4 Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.

**Learning objectives:** Students will be able to interpret qualities one must have to complete the Iditarod.

**Procedural Activities:** Class will be in 8 groups.

1. Have students brainstorm character qualities of an Iditarod musher.
2. Whole class – discuss qualities the students came up with.
3. Each group will be given a letter from IDITAROD. Each group should have a different letter.
4. Each group will choose a different story to read from *Iditarod Classics* by Lew Freedman. Story can either be read as small group or individually.
5. In small groups students will come up with a quality starting with the letter they were given earlier about the musher in the story they read.
6. Each group will then design and create a quilt square based on their letter (quality) and musher story. The quilt square will be a white hanky.
7. Each group will present in front of the class. Groups will share the story about their musher. The group will then share the quality they came up with for their musher. Finally, each group will share with the class their quilt square.

**Post lesson:** We will watch a TEDx talk given by Cindy Abbott and discuss the qualities she displays.

**Materials Students Need:** Hanky or felt square, story from *Iditarod Classics* by Lew Freedman, markers

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:** online thesaurus

**Other Information:** Have your students use pencil before using markers.

**Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:** Have more artistic students create an additional square. I had a few students create a middle square that represents our school.

### Notes:

Instead of hankies my class used pre-cut felt squares from Walmart (23 cents each).