

Eye on the Iditarod: Aisling's Quest

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Discipline / Subject: Reading/ Language Arts

Topic: Goal Setting

Grade Level: 3-5, others with modifications

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

Eye on the Iditarod: Aisling's Quest by Hope Irvin Marston

Author Website: <http://www.hopeirvinmarston.com/>

Resources for students:

<http://iditarod.com/resources/mushers/>

Organizers for students:

http://specialed.about.com/od/worksheets/ss/goalsetting_2.htm

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson175/traits.pdf

<http://www.dailyteachingtools.com/free-graphic-organizers.html#2>

<http://www.worksheetworks.com/miscellanea/calendars/hour.html>

Websites for organizations mentioned in the novel:

Down East Sled Dog Club: <http://desdc.org/>

International Federation of Sled Dog Sports: <http://www.sleddogsport.net/>

International Sled Dog Racing Association: <http://www.isdra.org/>

Lesson Summary:

Students will analyze Aisling's goal and the steps she takes to meet that goal. They identify the character traits she has that will allow her to meet her goal. The students will wrap up the novel by setting their own major goal and outlining the steps they will need to set themselves up for success in meeting their goal.

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

Common Core Reading Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.3

Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.3.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Learning Objectives:

Students will identify character traits and locate support their decisions with evidence from the text.

Students will identify and plan appropriate steps for achieving a long term goal.

Assessment:

Individual organizers can be collected for assessment.

Students could present their final goal and associate steps to the class for assessment.

Procedural Activities:Section One: Birth of a Dream

Aisling has a dream of someday running the Iditarod. As she says, she is “born to follow my dream of running the Iditarod.” After reading the introduction to the novel, have the students brainstorm an Action Plan for Aisling. What does she need to do, step by step, to reach her goal? Students can use the goal planning sheet found here: http://specialied.about.com/od/worksheets/ss/goalsetting_2.htm to help Aisling plan out the steps she needs to reach her goal. You may want to refer to the Iditarod race rules to see what qualifications need to be met for mushers to enter the Iditarod. Section one of the race rules covers qualifications: <http://iditarod.com/resources/mushers/>

Section Two: Chapters 1-3

We meet Aisling and learn more about her. The students can use these initial chapters to analyze Aisling’s character traits. Discussion can include conversations about what traits Aisling has that will help her become successful in reaching her Iditarod goal. Read, Write, Think has a terrific list of character traits here: http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson175/traits.pdf There are some good graphic organizers to help the students identify Aisling’s traits and support them with text support here: <http://www.dailyteachingtools.com/free-graphic-organizers.html#2>

Section Three: Chapters 4-6

Aisling, and thus our students, are learning that mushing is hard work. The goal she has set for herself requires a lot of time and effort on her part. Have the students look at Aisling’s daily life compared to theirs. The students could use the information found in this section to fill out a daily planner for Aisling and then one for themselves to compare. This site allows you to customize and print a daily planner to complete: <http://www.worksheetworks.com/miscellanea/calendars/hour.html> Alternately, they could divide a circle in four pieces and create a seasonal schedule for themselves and one for Aisling to compare.

Section Four: Chapters 7-9

Aisling is getting closer to her goal every time she competes in a race. Have the students choose one of her race adventures. Pretending to be Aisling, have the students create a postcard to mail from one of the races. They can design a picture for the front of the postcard and then retell one of the exciting race stories on the back. They could be used on a “Postcards from the Races” bulletin board.

Section Five: Chapters 10-12

Aisling overcomes a major heartbreak and loss. While this novel ends here, we are left with the sense that her story is far from over. She still has her dream to chase. Take this opportunity to challenge your students to revisit the goal planning sheet they created for Aisling and revise it with what they think her next steps should be. Then have them take inspiration from Aisling and create a goal setting sheet for themselves.

Materials Students Need:

Organizers as described above
Student copies of Eye on the Iditarod: Aisling's Quest
Cardstock, art supplies for making postcards

Sites for information for postcards:

Farmington Frolic Spring Races: <http://desdc.org/farmington-sprint-sled-dog-races/>

David D. Merrill Races: <http://desdc.org/forums/topic/david-d-merrill-memorial-sled-dog-race/>

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Websites listed above

The final project could be taken a step further by having the students create a multi-media presentation version of their goal to present and share with their class.

Other Information:**Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:**

The final project could be extended by having them create a multi-media presentation to share with others. Students could set up a framework for their goal and the associated steps and then revisit and update the presentation as the smaller steps are achieved.

Students could create a scrapbook of Aisling's Quest for the Iditarod. They could create pages for the scrapbook as if they were Aisling. They could highlight the key events and races that were highlighted in the novel.

Additional Information