Effective strategies and resources for integrating quality children's literature in intermediate social studies instruction

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Abstract
For many educators in intermediate grades, the challenge is to find ways to introduce material in an engaging and meaningful way prior to students reading the textbook. Rather than having students read solely from a textbook, some educators have begun incorporating literature in the classroom in order to introduce material, to help students connect to prior knowledge. As time has passed social studies curriculum has been teachers have an important role and responsibility to connect students to the curriculum that they are required to learn. One of the best ways to do this is by capturing their interests and tapping their prior knowledge through the use of quality children's literature. After observing intermediate social studies instruction in local classrooms, what is being done in the classroom and what they might need to enhance this process, I developed a guide for educators that may want additional resources and ideas for using quality literature in social studies instruction. This guide included instructional strategies, sample lessons, suggested quality literature and classroom activities to assist educators in helping students make connections and understand the content of social studies curriculum.

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Thesis Completion
2013

Semester
Spring

Advisor
Hoffman, Elizabeth

Degree
Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

College
College of Education

Department
Teaching, Learning, and Leadership

Subjects
Dissertations, Academic -- Education:Education -- Dissertations, Academic

Format
PDF

Identifier
CFH0004452

Language
English

Access Status
Open Access

Length of Campus-only Access
None

Document Type
Honors in the Major Thesis

Recommended Citation