

Core Skills Analysis

Literature

- The student has gained an understanding of character development through the main character, Travis, as he experiences growth and moral dilemmas throughout the story.
- Analyzing the theme of loyalty and friendship in the context of Old Yeller's relationship with Travis provides insights into emotional connections and ethical decisions.
- The depiction of rural life in the narrative enhances the student's comprehension of historical and cultural contexts, enriching their appreciation of setting in literature.
- Through discussion and reflection on the plot, the student has improved their ability to summarize key events and articulate the significance of conflicts faced by characters.

History

- By exploring the setting of post-Civil War Texas, the student has learned about American history, including aspects of pioneer life and the challenges faced by early settlers.
- Understanding the role of domestic animals, particularly dogs, in aiding settlers provides insight into human-animal relationships and their historical significance.
- The time period's socio-economic factors highlighted in the film foster discussions about historical realities such as survival, community, and family structure.
- Examining the impact of events, such as disease and natural disasters, helps the student grasp the realities of life in the 19th century, making history relatable to modern students.

Ethics

- The moral decisions made by Travis regarding Old Yeller are a form of ethical reasoning, prompting the student to consider the difficult choices people must make in challenging situations.
- The student reflects on themes of responsibility and sacrifice, discussing what it means to care for others, both humans and animals, in light of the story's events.
- This activity encourages the student to debate the ethical implications of loyalty versus practicality, enhancing critical thinking regarding personal values and societal norms.
- By assessing the consequences of Travis's actions, the student learns to navigate complex emotional landscapes and the importance of empathy.

Tips

To further enhance the student's learning experience, it may be beneficial for the teacher or parent to engage in follow-up discussions that dive deeper into the themes presented in 'Old Yeller.' Encourage the student to explore similar stories that depict loyalty and sacrifice or to read supplemental materials on rural history and animal domestication. You could also initiate a project where the student researches real-life situations involving ethical dilemmas in animal care, perhaps inviting them to volunteer at a local animal shelter to gain practical insights. Furthermore, hosting a group discussion or a creative writing session could allow the student to express their reflections and interpretations in a collaborative setting.

Book Recommendations

- [Where the Red Fern Grows](#) by Wilson Rawls: A touching story of a young boy's bond with his two hunting dogs and the life lessons learned through their adventures.
- [Old Yeller](#) by Fred Gipson: The classic tale of a young boy and his loyal dog set in the Texas frontier, filled with themes of love, loyalty, and loss.
- [Shiloh](#) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor: A powerful story about a boy who finds a stray dog, confronting moral dilemmas of ownership and responsibility.

Learning Standards

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1: Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3: Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.