

Thomas Jefferson Education Literature

Teacher Name: Michelle Mauch

Based on the book:

A Thomas Jefferson Education, Teaching A Generation of Leaders for the Twenty-First Century, by Oliver Van DeMille

This class is based on group discussion of great books, and will draw out the themes of the book, including discussion of the historical and worldview perspectives of the authors. The entire book should be read **before** each class---one book per week! Parents are welcome to join the discussion if they have also read the book and have a free hour. If the parent agrees, I will provide suggestions for a paper topic based on the interests of their child and the literature we will be reading. Ideally, this paper should be written and reworked throughout the semester until it is excellent and worth sharing. The process of writing the paper would include discussion between parent and child, and I would also be willing to add my input. The paper would not be a requirement of the class, but an option if parents so choose for their child. The challenge of reading, thinking and discussing one great book a week has plenty of educational merit without writing the paper.

Please circle the category that would best describe the proposed class:

English/Grammar

Please circle the specific grade level(s) this class would be targeted to:

7th – 9th grade (12-14 years old)

Suggested curriculum: N/A. Recommend parents read “A Thomas Jefferson Education.”

Preferred class size (maximum): 8

Please list any prerequisites for taking this class, if any:

AVID and **FAST** readers with a willingness to speak up will enjoy this class. Past students in Deconstructing Penguins (similar to TJE Literature format) will tell you that the class is almost painful for those who arrive unprepared, because the class is entirely based on discussion of the complete book. I **do not** recommend that parents place their child in this class in order to become an avid reader.

Length of class (one or two semesters): One

Material fee(s), if any: Finding a copy of the books---book lists will be provided prior to the start of the semester. Most books should be available at the library, or through Dover Publishing (inexpensive reprints of the classics).

Current books I am considering (not a final list)---I read and reread before making final selections, and am open to suggestions of great books to read.

Call of the Wild, by Jack London

The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling

Little Britches, Ralph Moody

Maniac Magee, Jerry Spinelli

Animal Farm, by George Orwell

View from Saturday, E.L. Konigsburg

Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson

The Black Pearl, Scott O’Dell

Holes, Louis Sachar

Witch of Blackbird Pond, by Elizabeth George Speare (This is not a book about witchcraft, but about Puritans)

The Giver, Lois Lowry

<p>Out of the Silent Planet, C.S. Lewis A Tale of Two Cities, Charles Dickens The Good Master, Kate Seredy Watership Down, Richard Adams Frankenstein, Mary Shelley The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain The Princess and Goblin, George MacDonald</p>
Outside work required, if any: MUST read the book prior to class.
Please list any other specific items you feel might be necessary when considering this class idea: