

Dear Parents and Teachers:

This packet can be used in several ways as you study two great books for grades 4-6. Visit the on-line links for information about the authors and instructions for the art projects. This packet has been formatted as Part 1: The Castle in the Attic and Part 2: The Indian in the Cupboard. At the end of Part 2 there are some questions and exercises comparing the two books. Both books have been part of the literature curriculum for grades 4-6 in many public school systems for many years. Both are similar stories providing for a wide range of study across the curriculum. Part 1 provides a good opportunity to study similes and metaphors, and to discuss a variety of genres. Castle is a very good choice while studying the Middle Ages, while Indian could be used during your 5th grade study of Native Americans. You could use either part of this activity booklet separately, or as a comparative study of two similar stories. A comparative study allows for good discussion and exploration of many facets of the language arts curriculum. The suggested art projects will add fun, interest, and variety to your study. These projects are very open-ended to allow your student to use a great deal of choice and creativity. However you decide to use this versatile packet, I hope that it helps your students to better understand and to enjoy these books.

Sue Leatherman

Part I
The Castle in the Attic
by
Elizabeth Winthrop



To learn more about Elizabeth Winthrop, please visit her website at the link below:
<http://www.elizabethwinthrop.com/>

Can you find at least 3 other books she has written?
What is the title and subject of her latest book?

As you begin this book, you will see that the author uses some colorful figures of speech. You can guess their meaning as you read the whole sentence.

Figures of Speech

1. Page 8—Why does William look like a “horse at the starting gate”?

2. Page 19—William notices “an odd expectant feeling” in the attic. How does this phrase lead the reader to think that something is going to happen?

3. Page 57-- “The image of the token nibbled around William's mind..” What does this mean to you?

Sample file

A simile is a figure of speech using 'like' or 'as'. Can you think of a good simile to complete the following sentences?

The sun rose high in the sky like a _____.

The animals were as restless as _____.

Make up one of your own. _____

A metaphor doesn't use the words 'like' or 'as'. Sentence number 3 above says that “the image nibbled”. Can an image really nibble? No, but it creates a picture in our minds of what is happening in William's mind.

Maybe your teacher can help you think of another.

Dictionary Work: Write definitions for the following:

1. chivalry--

2. armory--

3. entrusted--

4. minstrel--

5. portcullis--

6. scabbard--

7. acquaintance--

8. scornfully--

9. churlish--

Sample file

The word *genre* means category or type of book. Would you say that *The Castle in the Attic* is a mystery, adventure, fantasy, or biography? _____
Can you think of a book or make up a book title for each genre below?

Mystery _____

Adventure _____

Fantasy _____

Biography _____

What other kinds of books are there? Can you divide them into fiction and non-fiction categories?

Sample file

Art Work: Design your own best-selling book jacket for this book. Make it different from the real cover. Use your own creative ideas. You could use construction paper or scrapbook paper. You could also create a lap book or an accordion booklet about the story. Here are some web links to help you:

http://homeschooling.suite101.com/article.cfm/how_to_make_homeschool_lap_books

<http://video.about.com/familycrafts/How-to-Make-an-Accordion-Book.htm>

Sample file

Let's Design Your Own Castle!

Draw a map of the inside. The purpose of a castle during the middle ages was for protection. What elements would you need inside your castle for protection during a long seige? Make a separate sketch of the outside of your castle on the next blank page. You might add a moat. What about a dragon? You might choose to make a 3-D one using a box. You might add lots more pages to your notebook about this activity!

Sample file

The Outside of My Castle

Sample file

Read All About It! Let's write a story about what's happening in your castle!

Sample file



