



WAYS TO USE THIS NOVEL IN THE CLASSROOM

Sylvia Doe and the 100-Year Flood presents an exceptional opportunity for **cross-curricular planning** for middle grades teachers. The book touches on **history, language, geology, physics, and ecology**, with compelling characters and an exciting plot to draw students in.

The novel could be assigned in an **English Language Arts** class, with the accompanying vocabulary, prompts, and quizzes included in the curricular materials on this website. All are designed to align with Common Core and similar standards. Specific ELA activities are also included, on literary elements, author's craft, creative writing, and language.

Concurrently with students reading the novel in English class, projects in **social studies** and science can be assigned from the activities in the curricular materials. Social studies activities include three different history projects. One, about the Cherokee, has students work with primary sources. Another introduces students to the idea of doing "public history," and a third emphasizes research skills to investigate the history of students' own communities.

The **science** activities that can be combined with *Sylvia Doe* are quite numerous. The book goes into detail about the physics of levers and theories about the nature of time. A major theme is the causes and consequences of species extinction. Throughout the novel, Sylvia's field journal in which she records different species is featured, and several scenes show Sylvia using a field guide and/or her natural history knowledge to identify an unknown animal or mineral. The science lessons in these teaching materials include hands-on activities and research projects.

It is most likely that English teachers will find these curriculum materials if they are considering assigning *Sylvia Doe* to their students. If this is the case, please share with your social studies and science faculty the potential this book and its teaching materials have for cross-curricular collaboration. If you teach using **inquiry frames**, *Sylvia Doe* would lend itself well to framing questions such as these:

- What makes us who we are? (The novel's protagonist is searching for knowledge of her race, parentage, and where and when she is from to understand who she is and where she belongs.)
- What is our responsibility to the natural world? (The novel emphasizes how the activities of humans affect the natural world and presents a complex relationship between humans and nature.)
- Why does the past matter? (Driven by a plot about time travel, the novel repeatedly has characters wonder who came before them, who might come after them, and why thinking about this matters.)