

2019 Sequoyah Book Awards

Lessons & Activities



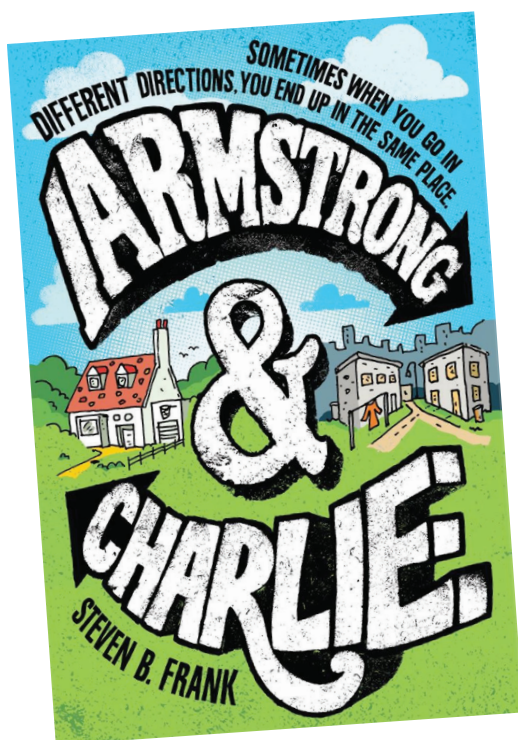
Celebrating 60 Years of the Sequoyah Book Awards!

Remembering the Past, Looking To the Future

The first Sequoyah Book Award was given in April 1959 at Northwestern Oklahoma State College in Alva, making this the third oldest youth-choice literary award in the nation. To celebrate the 60th birthday of the award, this year's lesson plans will reflect the theme of "Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future" with activities that tie to history and/or STEAM.

Day Two: Activity Ideas for Intermediate Students

Reading a book. Talking about a book. Writing about a book. Acting out a scene from a book. Using a book to inspire creative projects. The middle school grades are ripe for taking reading to the next level by using books as springboards to other means of expression. Reading Rockets, a resource developed by the Virginia public television station WETA, presents *103 Things to Do Before, During, or After Reading*. It's a fun cornucopia of ideas for teachers and students, and you can find it at: <https://tinyurl.com/ReadingRockets103>



2019 Children's Sequoyah Masterlist NIE Lesson Plan

Armstrong & Charlie by Steven B. Frank

Set in Los Angeles in the 1970s, during the pilot year of the LA school system's integration program, Frank's book explores the rivalry and friendship between two sixth-grade boys from opposite worlds. From dealing with playground politics to racial discrimination, the boys experience a year of discovery about themselves and about the world.

This lesson plan is designed for a sixth grade class but can be modified for older students.

OAS English Language Arts Standards:

Standard 6 of the English Language Arts standards for grades 6th-8th.

AASL National School Library Standards:

This lesson plan addresses several standards within the AASL Standards Framework for Learners, especially within the Shared Foundations of Inquire, Collaborate, Curate, and Explore. These standards are explained in the AASL publication *National School Library Standards for Learners, School Librarians, and School Libraries*. The frameworks may also be found on the Library Media page of the Oklahoma State Department of Education website (sde.ok.gov).

Introduction:

In Chapter 1 of *Armstrong & Charlie*, Charlie's friends are going to different schools. Their parents are reacting to the integration decision of their local school

Students will review a summary of the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* and the 1976 *Runyon v. McCrary* Supreme Court decisions. www.history.com/topics/black-history/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka

Discuss with students what the court decisions meant to students across the country. Include the practice of busing students (such as Armstrong, in the book) from one neighborhood to another. For older students, continue the research to present day. Decades later are schools more or less integrated? Have them research newspaper articles on current school integration across the country.

Main Activity: (This activity is best taught in collaboration with the library media specialist and can be completed over multiple days.)

- Assist students in a discussion on the benefits of integration and the non-benefits of segregation. Help them curate a list of information sources they use.
- Ask students to brainstorm this challenge: What ideas can they provide to help solve the issue of integration in schools?
- For older students, ask them to look at their communities. What are the ethnic and racial demographics of their community? Does their school reflect the population accurately? What groups, if any, are not included; and what can the community do to better include more integration? www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ok/PST045217

Closure:

Invite other classes, parents, and/or administrators to discuss integration in schools across the nation and, for older students, in their local community.

Recommended Resources

Copies of *Armstrong & Charlie*

Oklahoma Digital Prairie Reference Resources (digitalprairie.ok.gov)