



Class Title: Blue Exploring History Through Storytelling

Teacher Name: Samantha Procopio

Class Day: Friday

Class Size: 18

Class Cost: \$20

Class Fee: \$96

Ages or color group served: Blue

What level is this class: Level 2

Prerequisites: Be able to listen to a read-aloud and recall main ideas.

Be comfortable writing 3–5 complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation.

Be willing to participate in class discussions and share ideas.

Be able to complete simple craft activities (cutting, gluing, coloring).

Graduation Requirements: Participate in weekly class discussions, activities, and projects.

Complete at-home assignments.

Participate in the final showcase.

Homework Requirements: Students will have one short at-home assignment each week to reinforce what we learned in class. These may include:

Writing a few sentences in response to a prompt

Completing a simple drawing, code, or map activity

Interviewing a family member

Homework is designed to be manageable and meaningful, usually taking 15–20 minutes per week, with occasional longer assignments.

Class Description:

In this class, students will journey through American history using powerful stories as their guide. Each week includes a teacher read-aloud, a short history mini-lesson, and a hands-on project that brings the past to life. From building a Jamestown fort, to writing invisible ink messages like Revolutionary spies, to designing quilt squares for the Underground Railroad, and creating ration books from World War II, students will explore history in a fun and engaging way.

Alongside the history, students will strengthen their reading and writing skills. They will practice listening carefully, joining in discussions, writing short reflections, and even citing evidence directly from the texts. Each unit includes a simple at-home activity to extend learning with family support.

The course will end with a showcase, where students will present one of the projects or activities they completed during the semester and share what they've learned with classmates and families.

This class is designed for ages 8–10 and counts as a core literature class while also supporting history learning through storytelling.

Week 1:

Jamestown Begins: Students will be introduced to Blood on the River as we explore why explorers came to America and what challenges they faced. We'll start building a model fort together to bring the Jamestown settlement to life.

Week 2:

Daily Life in the Colony: We'll continue reading and discover what daily life was like for settlers, including food, shelter, and challenges. Students will add gardens, fences, and other details to their forts.

Week 3:

Two Perspectives: We'll finish this section of the book while discussing the role Native Americans played in helping settlers survive. Students will compare settler and Native perspectives and reflect on what life in Jamestown might have been like.

Week 4:

Secrets of the Revolution: We'll begin Revolutionary War on Wednesday and talk about why the colonies wanted independence. Students will create their own invisible ink messages, just like spies during the Revolution.

Week 5:

Children in Wartime: We'll learn about the roles kids and families played in the Revolutionary War and act out short skits showing how children helped the war effort.

Week 6:

Revolutionary Heroes: Students will meet heroes like Paul Revere and George Washington. We'll wrap up the unit by creating "wanted posters" for Revolutionary heroes or spies, combining art and writing.

Week 7:

Escaping to Freedom: We'll begin Freedom Crossing and introduce the Underground Railroad. Students will learn about coded quilt patterns and begin designing their own quilt squares.

Week 8:

Courage and Risk: As we continue the story, students will explore the dangers faced by both runaway slaves and those who helped them. They'll create their own secret codes to send safe messages.

Week 9:

Heroes of the Underground Railroad: We'll finish Freedom Crossing and highlight real heroes like Harriet Tubman. Students will complete their quilt squares, put them together as a class quilt, and compare how courage looked in different time periods.

Week 10:

A New Story in WWII: We'll begin Dash and learn about Japanese internment during World War II. Students will start letter-writing activities, stepping into the shoes of a soldier, child, or refugee.

Week 11:

Life on the Home Front: We'll explore what rationing was like during WWII and create ration book pages showing how families had to stretch limited supplies.

Week 12:

History Showcase: Each student will present one of their projects from the semester and share what they learned, giving families a window into their journey through history and storytelling.