



# Gold Seal Lesson

<b>Author(s):</b> David Nohara			<b>Lesson Title:</b> Based on a True Story!			
<b>Grade Span</b>			<b>ICLE Application Model</b>			
K-4	5-8	9-12 XX	A	B	C	D XX

### Instructional Focus:

#### Reading

Students read a variety of grade level materials, applying strategies appropriate to various situations.

#### Writing

Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences with sophistication and complexity appropriate to the grade level.

#### Listening

Students listen for a variety of purposes appropriate to the grade level.

#### Language Arts Integration

Students synthesize individual language arts skills.

### Performance Task

Many movies, novels, and plays are based on true stories, such as the lives of real people or actual historical events. Examples can be found in both modern popular works (*The Patriot*) and among the "classics" (*Richard III* or *A Tale of Two Cities*). In these cases, writers may change details of the real story—or make assumptions about unanswered questions—for many reasons, such as to add dramatic effect, to make it easier for the audience to relate to it, or because of a particular bias or prejudice. Sometimes these changes are major and fundamentally alter the course of events. While these works are intended as entertainment, they can leave the reader with incorrect notions about history and famous people.

1. Choose a work of fiction that is based on actual events or the lives of actual people. Check with your teacher to make sure the work is appropriate for the activity.
2. Read or watch it and make notes about the major characters and events.
3. Check the accuracy of the story by researching related non-fictional material. Keep a research log of materials consulted and the major findings.
4. Write a brief report on the historical accuracy of the fictional work. For the main part of the report, choose at least five major events or characters and discuss the following:
  - whether the event or character is purely fictional, a modification of a real person or event, or is an accurate representation of a real person or event. If the historical accounts are unclear or leave questions unanswered, what alternate views did the author ignore?
  - if the details have been altered or interpreted in any way, how that alteration or interpretation changes the story. Does it make a character seem more or less sympathetic, evil, or heroic? Does it make events more or less dramatic, horrible, or understandable? Does it simplify a complex situation? Overall, how much does the change affect the course of events or the portrayal of a character?
  - why the author made the change. Was it for dramatic effect or did they wish to bias the reader?

Include in your report citations for the works you consulted.

## ICLE Essential Skills

Apply in writing the rules and conventions of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. (ela 1)
Gather information from a variety of sources, including electronic sources, and summarize, analyze, and evaluate its use for a report. (ela 3)
Identify, collect and/or select pertinent information while reading. (ela 5)
Understand rules of grammar, usage, punctuation, paragraphing and spelling. (ela 7)
Discriminate important ideas from unimportant ideas while reading. (ela 15)
Assess the validity and accuracy of an informational selection. (ela 18)
Understand the personal, social, cultural and historical significance of a text. (ela 23)
Summarize, synthesize and organize information while reading. (ela 24)
Write a report on a topic that uses several sources of information and correctly document those sources. (ela 36a)
Synthesize and evaluate ideas from several selections on similar topics. (ela 38)
Compare/contrast a reading selection with others. (ela 44)
Understand and relate to situations, events and characters in a reading selection. (ela 57)
Evaluate the way an author uses language and text characteristics such as plot, setting, theme, character, point of view, genre etc. to evoke a response in a reader. (ela 72)
Assess the significance and importance of the themes in a literary text. (ela 77)
Write a critique or review of a movie, play, book, or restaurant. (ela 81)

### Scoring Guide:

Assessment of accuracy 20 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student identifies five major characters or events</li> <li>• Student consults appropriate resources to assess accuracy</li> <li>• Student correctly identifies historically accurate details from those that are fictionalized or hypothesized</li> <li>• Student shows understanding of more subtle differences in interpretation</li> </ul>
Analysis of impact 25 Points	Presents well-reasoned argument for the effect of alterations to or interpretations of the truth, supported with examples from either the work of fiction or sources consulted and logical extensions of the plot
Author's rationale 25 Points	Student presents reasonable theories about why author made the changes, supported by researched information about the author, author's viewpoints expressed either explicitly or implied in other fictional works, consideration of the author's audience and time period, and understanding of common literary conventions
Format and language use 30 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report follows appropriate format</li> <li>• Student structures ideas to create a logical argument or train of thought</li> <li>• References are correctly cited</li> <li>• Report follows rules and conventions of standard written English, including grammar, spelling, punctuation, and diction</li> </ul>

### Keywords

English Language Arts	Mathematics	Science
Reading Authors Research Viewing	Algebra	Earth Science
Writing Argumentative Compare/Contrast	Geometry	Life Science
Communications	Statistics	Chemistry
Literature	Calculus	Physics
Other	Trigonometry	Other
	Other	