

Flora & Ulysses



By

Kate DiCamillo

A Novel Study
by Joel Michel Reed

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on several chapters of *Flora & Ulysses* and is comprised of five of the following activities:

- Before You Read
- Vocabulary Building
- Comprehension Questions
- Language Activities
- Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities in this unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters ... respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. Students will also be expected to provide clear answers to questions and well-constructed explanations. It is critical as well that students be able to relate events and the feelings of characters to their own lives and experiences and describe their own interpretation of a particular passage.

A strength of the unit is that students can work on the activities at their own pace. Every activity need not be completed by all students. A **portfolio cover** is included (p.7) so that students may organize their work and keep it all in one place. A **Student Checklist** is also included (p.6) so that a record of completed work may be recorded.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words/phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying/creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identify *foreshadowing*.
6. Identify *personification*
7. Use of singular / plural nouns
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identifying syllables
11. Identify/create *similes*
12. Determining alphabetical order

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Identify *cliffhangers*
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Relating personal experiences

Creative and Critical Thinking

1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Write a description of personal feelings
6. Write a book review
7. Complete an Observation Sheet
8. Complete a KWS Chart

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
4. Design a cover for the novel
5. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures is a children's novel by American author Kate DiCamillo and illustrated by K.G. Campbell. It was published in 2013, by Candlewick Press. It is the story of Flora Belle Buckman and a superhero squirrel named Ulysses. (Wikipedia)

A complete synopsis and other helpful reviews can be found on the following website:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flora_%26_Ulysses

Author Biography

Kate DiCamillo

Katrina Elizabeth "Kate" DiCamillo (born March 25, 1964)

Born in Philadelphia, DiCamillo suffered from chronic pneumonia. At age five, she moved to Clermont, Florida for her health (warmer climate) with her mother and her older brother, Curt DiCamillo, who would become a noted architectural historian. Her mother was a teacher. Her father remained in Pennsylvania to sell his orthodontic practice and never rejoined the family in Florida.

DiCamillo earned her college degree in English at the University of Florida in 1987 and worked in Florida after graduation. At age 30 she moved to Minneapolis and began working at a book warehouse. That job inspired her to write for children and allowed her to meet a sales representative for Candlewick Press, resulting in submission of a draft that would become *Because of Winn-Dixie*.

Her 2003 novel *The Tale of Despereaux* was inspired by a friend's son, Luke Bailey, who asked her to write about an unlikely hero with "exceptionally large ears".

(Courtesy of Wikipedia) - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_DiCamillo



Flora & Ulysses



By Lynne Reid Banks

Name:

Flora & Ulysses

By Kate DiCamillo



Chapters 1-8



Before you read the chapter:

Briefly predict what you think the plot of *Flora & Ulysses* will be about.



Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

1. Contract
2. Unassuming
3. Tentative
4. Profound
5. Descend
6. Unpredictable
7. Submersion
8. Disdain
9. Hysterical
10. Inadvertently

- A. Having or showing great knowledge or insight.
- B. Being under water, or going under water.
- C. Not pretentious or arrogant; modest.
- D. Without intention; accidentally.
- E. A written or spoken agreement.
- F. Something that is difficult to project or forecast.
- G. Derived from wildly uncontrolled emotion.
- H. Done without confidence; hesitant.
- I. Move or fall downwards
- J. The feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's consideration or respect.

Questions



1. Describe the **setting** of the story as Chapter One begins.

2. What did Flora's mother do for a living?

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3. How do you think Mrs. Tickham felt when she sucked up the squirrel in the vacuum?

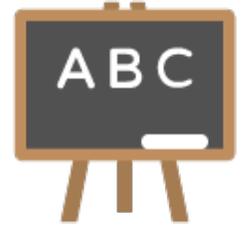
4. Briefly describe what happened to the squirrel when it was revived by Flora.

5. Do you have a favorite comic book character or graphic novel that you enjoy reading?
If so, why do you enjoy reading this particular comic book or graphic novel?

6. List at least five factors that are involved in taking care of a pet or wild animal.

Language Activities

A. Many authors enjoy using **alliteration** – a literary device where the author repeats the same sound at the beginning of several words. The following is an example of alliteration: “... screaming, shrieking, shouting, screeching about something scary.”



Using your imagination, create your own examples of **alliteration** from the following topics. Each example must contain a minimum of three words.

Two or more animals fighting.	
Someone using a typewriter.	
One from your own imagination.	

B. Find ten words in Chapters 1-8 that begin with the letter 'l' and have no less than seven characters. Once you have completed your list, arrange them in alphabetical order on the right hand side.



Words	Alphabetical Order

C. Research Assignment The Heimlich Maneuver

The Heimlich maneuver (abdominal thrusts) is an emergency response technique that can save the life of a choking victim in seconds. This maneuver can be accomplished in no more than eight steps which are outlined on such websites as www.wikihow.com.



List the critical steps of the Heimlich maneuver below. You may wish to represent some of the steps with an appropriate image or drawing.

Steps	Diagrams
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	