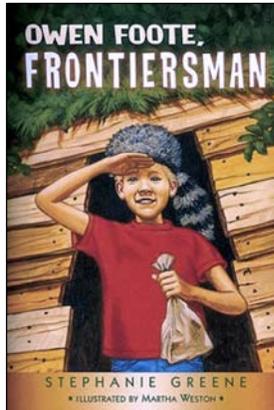


OWEN FOOTE, FRONTIERSMAN**CURRICULUM TIE-INS:**

Courage
 Problem Solving
 Conflict Resolution
 Bullying
 Honesty

PLOT SUMMARY:

Owen loves his tree fort more than anything in the world. When he and Joseph go into the woods one day to work on it, they find that two older boys have taken it over and are prepared to ruin it. Owen and Joseph set out to defend it and teach the intruders a lesson. They also learn a few things about themselves along the way.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:

1. In a book about Daniel Boone, Owen read that Daniel told his mother, "When the forest calls, I have to go." What did he mean? Is there anything that you care about as much?
2. Owen talks a lot about nature and animal tracks and the things he learned from reading about Daniel Boone. Talk to the children about the frontier, pioneers, and being in the woods. Have they ever tracked animals? Built a fort? What do they like about the woods? What makes them afraid? Would they sleep in the woods?
3. Let's talk about bullying: Owen says that kids like Jake and Spencer like to ruin things for other kids to prove how cool they are. Do you think this is the reason? Could there be other reasons? How can a kid stand up for him/herself against a bully? Why doesn't Owen want to tell his mom? Is it right for one kid to ruin something that belongs to someone else?
4. Owen doesn't tell his mom the truth about what's going on with Jake and Spencer. How do you feel about this? Do you think it was right for him to do it? Why does he keep it a secret? What would you have done?
5. When Owen and Joseph get to the fort after Jake and Spencer have left, it's a mess, but Owen feels very calm. Would you expect him to feel this way? Why does he?
6. What does Owen use as his first weapon in defending his fort? Why does he choose to use his brains? How does he know it will give him an advantage over Jake and Spencer? What kinds of tricks does he know about nature that those boys don't?
7. Owen chooses Wolverine for his code name and Badger for Joseph's. What did you learn about these two animals? Do you think Owen made the right choice? What animal's name would you pick for your code name and why?

8. How do the boys feel after they save their fort? What does Owen mean when he says, "This is still my kingdom!"
9. How do Jake and Spencer feel when they run into Owen and his mom in the grocery store? Why? How does Owen feel?
10. Why does Owen's mom say he deserves an Academy Award for his performance?

WORD HUNT:

It's fun to discover new words. See if your students can find the words below on the pages in the book where they're used. Then see if they can figure out what the word means by reading the sentence it's in. Let them choose several of the words to use in sentences of their own.

1. Scat p. 6
2. Innocent p. 18
3. Trespassing..... p. 21
4. Diabolical..... p. 30
5. Carrion..... p. 32
6. Tourniquet..... p. 44
7. Consequences p. 49
8. Interrupted p. 54
9. Booby trap p. 66
10. Zig-zag p. 86

CREATIVE WRITING EXERCISE:

Owen loves his fort more than anything in the world and has filled it with things he treasures. Talk to the children about what's in the fort and how Owen and Joseph built it. Then let them design and write about their own fort or playhouse. They should include what items they care about and would put in it, how they might build it, materials, who would help them, etc. If they want to do more, they could write a story about kids who build a fort and come up with a club.