

Teacher’s Guide for Fifth and Sixth Grade Activities

The following activities include formal lesson plans and additional activities for fifth and sixth grade students. The formal lesson plans are directly correlated to State of Connecticut Standards for fifth and sixth grade in Language Arts, Mathematics and Social Studies. The references to Social Studies Standards are from the 2008 draft on new standards. Many lessons include the integration of two subject areas. Whatever the chosen activity, we suggest students be given a **purpose for viewing** the film.

The film presents a historically accurate depiction of a compelling event that took place in Hebron, Connecticut in 1787, shortly after the American Revolution. Themes include:

- Political conflict between Tories and Patriots
- Concepts of civil and religious authority
- American history and politics of the time
- Perspectives on slavery and property rights

A sampling of transcribed primary source documents related to the story of the seizure, trial, and emancipation of the Peters family is included in the Appendix. The common fifth grade units on American history make the story and the lessons most appropriate. It may also work well within the sixth grade examination of world cultures.

Since the film uses the technique of flashbacks, some students may benefit from a bit of “pre-teaching” of the story. Appendix D of this Study Guide includes a summary of the story which will be useful in this regard.

The language arts activities, specifically the writing activities, should provide an interesting variation on familiar **writing assignments**. In addition, the math activities reinforce **estimating, rounding, solving word problems using number sentences, creating and analyzing graphs, multiplication and division**.

We sincerely hope that teachers will find the film and lessons classroom-friendly and useful.