

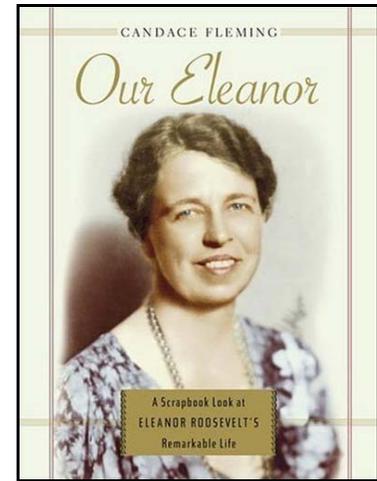
Classroom Guide

"These crowded hours have been interesting and stimulating. They have, I hope, been useful. They have, at least, been lived to the hilt." (pg 156)

Our Eleanor: a scrapbook look at Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable life

written by Candace Fleming
published by Anne Schwartz/ Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2005

A note to the teacher: This book is appropriate for older elementary students, middle school students and high school students. Included are activities appropriate for each age group. Unless otherwise indicated, all Eleanor Roosevelt quotes come from *Our Eleanor* and have a page number reference.



Themes:

- ◆ Understanding Eleanor: Her Personal Life and Interests
- ◆ Eleanor: an Agent of Change
- ◆ From Eleanor's Pen

About the book

Our Eleanor: a scrapbook look at Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable life is a chronological picture of Eleanor Roosevelt's colorful life outlined in a very personal and accessible way. Her story is told through archival photos, quotes, anecdotes, and sidebars as well as extremely well-written text. Basic research tools include a timeline, family tree, and extensive source notes. Chandler Roosevelt Lindsley and Elliott Roosevelt, Jr (grandchildren of Eleanor Roosevelt) write, "Candace Fleming has chronicled the life of Eleanor Roosevelt as no other. With photographs on every page and with special attention having been given each important person, place and project, this book provides an exciting glimpse into a remarkable life. It will appeal to young and old alike."

About the author

Candace Fleming writes award-winning books for children and young adults. Titles include *Ben Franklin's Almanac*, an ALA Notable Book and an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, as well as *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!*, *Gabriella's Song*, and *When Agnes Caws*, all ALA Notable Books.

Things to think about before you read the book

- ◆ What makes a life remarkable?
- ◆ What makes a person worth remembering?

5. Cut out the pieces.
6. Now have the students do the same thing with their own lives. Have them list 10 different things about themselves. Encourage them to look farther than their favorite sports teams or music groups – think about the special interests and talents they have.

Materials Needed:

Card stock, scissors, pen or pencil

TAKING IT FURTHER – UNDERSTANDING ELEANOR’S FEARS THROUGH POETRY

Things to think about before you start. Have the students answer the following questions:

- ◆ What are you afraid of?
- ◆ Eleanor craved attention as a child. Have you ever done anything just to get attention?
- ◆ Who is the teacher who influenced you the most?
- ◆ Eleanor Roosevelt lived in her imagination after her father died – it was a way to escape her everyday life. Has anything ever happened in your life that you wish you could escape from?
- ◆ One thing that helped Eleanor “escape” was to read. What is your favorite book? Does reading help you escape?
- ◆ Eleanor Roosevelt often went to a special place to find peace and get away from the pressures and worries of everyday life. Do you have a special place you like to go?

Some Additional Eleanor Roosevelt Quotes

- ◆ “Everything I ever did was always accomplished across a barrier of fear.”
- ◆ “My greatest fear has always been that I would be afraid – afraid physically or mentally or morally and allow myself to be influenced by fear instead of by my honest convictions.”
- ◆ “In the long run, we shape our lives, and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our own responsibility.”
- ◆ “We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face...we must do that which we think we cannot.”

A WRITING EXERCISE: POEMS ABOUT FEAR AND OVERCOMING IT

Use some of the information from the above questions to complete the following poem:

- a. Three adjectives that describe you
- b. Write a sentence about something you fear.
- c. Three different positive adjectives that describe you