

Historic Figures: 6th-8th Grade

A RIF Guide for Educators

Themes: Nonfiction, Famous People, History, Biography

Book Brief: This guide is designed for use with books about historic figures at the 6th-8th Grade reading level. Adapt the questions and activities in this guide to the book you are reading.

Content Connections: ELA, Social Studies

Time To Read!

Before we read, let's look at...

The Cover: Based on the cover, including the title and any illustrations, what historic figure is this book about? In what time period did this person live?

Prior Knowledge: While some students may be familiar with the topic of the book, some students may need an introduction to this figure and era. Discuss the historic figure and time period with your class to make sure all students have the necessary prior knowledge to understand the book.

Vocabulary: Identify 10-15 words that are likely to be new to your students and introduce them before you read this book with your class.

Purpose for Reading: It's important to understand how ideas influence people and events and how events influence people and ideas. As we read, think about how the historic figure influenced events and ideas of the time, and how events and ideas of the time influenced the historic figure.

While We Read

Monitoring Comprehension

- Provide an objective summary of the book, avoiding personal opinions.
- What is the main idea of the book? Use details from the book to support your answer.
- How does the author describe the historic figure? Does the author use examples, anecdotes, images, or other means to describe this person?
- What is the author's purpose for writing? How do you know? Use details from the book to support your answer.

Let's Think About

Our Purpose: How did events and ideas of the time influence the historic figure depicted in this book? How did the historic figure depicted in this book influence ideas and events?

Extending Our Thinking: Look at the author's list of sources as a class and note the different types of sources the author used. Ask students to pretend a person in the future is writing a book about them. Have students list the many types of sources an author could use to write a book about their lives and the types of information the author could get from each type of source. You can complete this activity individually or as a class.