

Black Duck by Janet Taylor Lisle:

An Interdisciplinary Unit

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Sample Lesson Ideas:

English:

- Journalism/Media: Using the newspaper articles interspersed throughout the text as a springboard, discuss how to evaluate the validity of sources, information. Discuss if and how bias affects the media – in any day and age.
- Study the structure of the text to discuss the significance and effect of flashback in a narrative.
- Explore CHARACTER - development, tragic flaws, etc. etc. etc.

Science:

- Use the science of forensics to investigate the grisly crimes in the book.
- Identify the scientific phenomena behind the weather conditions experienced on Narragansett Bay and in the surrounding communities.
- Examine the tidal cycle and how it plays a part in the nighttime dealings of the rumrunners.

Social Studies:

- See “Journalism/Media” lesson above – use as a segue to research
- Parallel the era of Prohibition to the age of Homeland Security: How do we maintain our borders, enforce our laws, develop our resources?
- Research Rhode Island's own history with Prohibition. Compare and contrast actual happenings with events in the text.
- Use an exploration of Rhode Island's coastal geography to determine why its shores, as mentioned in this novel, were such good spots for smuggling.

Mathematics:

- Using text from the book, create word problems to reinforce math literacy, problem solving, and basic operations skills
- Explore the collection and organization of data using the statistics of Prohibition, both from the text and historical documents.