

Teacher's Rationale

School: Arrowhead

Teacher: Balistreri/Budzein/Freeberg/Judd

Title: Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Grade or Course: Modern Lit

Approximate date(s) a book will be used:

Semester 1 (Judd)

Semester 2

This book will be (check one or more):

studied by the whole class. (But students are allowed to read an alternative.)

studied by small groups.

placed on a reading list.

placed in a classroom library.

recommended to individual students.

part of a larger study of (explain):

other (explain):

Ways in which the book is especially appropriate for student in this class:

This book uses real scientific and mathematical principles like relativity and fractal geometry as the basis for some of its humor. So, it easily ties in to what the students are studying in other courses.

The book parodies more serious science fiction like Star Trek and Star Wars. The kids can have fun with poking fun at their father's Sci Fi.

The comedy in this book requires a little thought and reader-participation, unlike much of what the kids might find in the media. It's important that they learn that one can be silly and literate at the same time.

Ways in which the book is especially pertinent to the objectives of this course or unit:

The book is part of a very popular series. It's "Modern Lit" in that it's what people were reading in the 80's and early 90's.

The particularly British humor is multi-cultural for American kids.

It appeals to males, in particular to science or technology-oriented males who are often reluctant readers of fiction.

As a comedy, it's a great contrast to the other books in our syllabus.

Special problems that might arise in relation to the book and some planned activities that handle this problem:

The book's tongue-in-cheek satire lampoons nearly all philosophy, so religion takes a few potshots as well as science, education, pop-culture, literature, and politics. In class discussion we can explore how Douglas Adams' real target is human hubris.

Some other appropriate books an individual student might read in place of this book:

The Sirens of Titan – Kurt Vonnegut

Summary of the book:

See below

Reviews and/or awards of the book or author:

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams

By now the story is legendary. Arthur Dent, mild-mannered, out-to-lunch earth-ling, is plucked from his planet by his friend Ford Prefect just seconds before it was demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass. Ford, posing as an out-of-work actor, is a researcher for the revised edition of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. Together the gruesome twosome begin their now-famous inter-galactic journey through time, space and best-sellerdom. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is the first of the five hitchhiker stories.

Young Adult Library Services Association – 100 Best Books for Young Adults