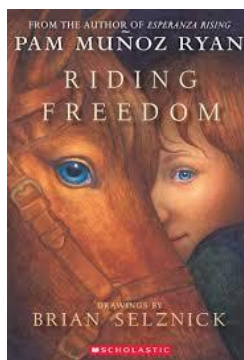


Riding Freedom



ISBN-10	0-439-08796-1
ISBN-13	978-0-439-08796-4
Author	Ryan, Pam Muñoz
Publisher	Scholastic Paperbacks
Copyright	1998
Lexile	720L
Genre	Historical Fiction
Synopsis	In this fast-paced, courageous, and inspiring story, readers adventure with Charlotte Parkhurst as she first finds work as a stable hand, becomes a famous stage-coach driver (performing brave feats and outwitting bandits), finds love as a woman but later resumes her identity as a man after the loss of a baby and the tragic death of her husband, and ultimately settles out west on the farm she'd dreamed of having since childhood. It wasn't until after her death that anyone discovered she was a woman.
Themes	Girl Power, bravery, perseverance
Protagonist	Female, Orphan
Note	Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.
More Information	www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 1



Writing Prompt

Vern and Charlotte understand the horses and their understanding also applies to people. Think how you react to people. If they are respectful, how do you act? If you are shown disrespect, do you act differently? Do you agree or disagree with Verns assessment, “A horse rides the way it is ridden”?

Write a paragraph in which you state your opinion about the above statement. Acknowledge there might be an opposing viewpoint and what it may be. Support your claims with facts and support based on the reading or real world knowledge. Conclude by restating your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 2



Writing Prompt

Think about the kids and their lives. Can you imagine what it might be like to have to compete with others to be adopted? Do you think the author is foreshadowing anything with this passage? Can you think back to anything you read thus far that might give you an indication of who might get adopted? What do you think it feels like for those kids who are standing wanting to discover who it is?

Based on the information you have so far, write who you think might be adopted. Write a one paragraph argument in which you support and give evidence for your choice. Use logical reasoning and evidence, write in logical sequence or order, and choose your words carefully to give good flow and order to your paragraph. Conclude your paragraph by using a statement that supports your claim.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 3



Key Paragraph- Page 25-26

“It’s been brought to my attention that some of the townspeople don’t think it’s quite lady-like for you to be racing the boys. Our reputation here is raising strong, strapping young men, and we can’t have folks calling our boys mollicoddles now, can we? You’re getting close to being a young lady and you need to start acting like one. From now on, you will have full duties in the kitchen with Mrs. Boyle. The stable is off limits.”

Writing Prompt

What do you think about Mr. Millshark’s statement to Charlotte? She is the best stable help that Vern has but Mr. Millshark sends her to the kitchen. Do you think it is fair? Why wouldn’t he use her talents the best way they could be used? Do you agree or disagree with him?

Write a one-paragraph argument in which you either support or defend Mr. Millshark and his decision. As you write, introduce your claim and acknowledge there might be an opposing viewpoint. Support your claim with valid reasons and evidence.

Conclude your paragraph with a statement that supports your viewpoint.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 4



Writing Prompt

What would be easier for Charlotte if she stayed at the orphanage? What would be harder? Why does she want to leave? What are the complications with each decision?

Based on the information given, what do you think Charlotte should do, stay at the orphanage or leave? Introduce your argument and be prepared to defend your claim? Give reasons for your opinion. Support your claim with evidence.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 5



Key Paragraph- Page 41

“Make it look like different things could have happened. If anyone came looking, they’d see her apron and think she drowned.

Writing Prompt

Vern tells Charlotte to disappear and to mix them up with her trail. Do you agree or disagree with him?

Write 1-2 paragraphs in which you support Vern and his claims or you disagree with him. As you write acknowledged the opposing viewpoint give reasons for your claims. Use a formal style. Use logical transitions. As you conclude restate your claim.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 6



Writing Prompt

If plants are kept in box that is too tight it means that their roots (life) becomes root bound and they are unable to thrive. The same can be said with people and animals. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Write a 1-2 paragraph argument in which you state if you agree or disagree with the above passage. Introduce your claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence. Use clear and concise reasons to support your claim. Write in a formal style. As you conclude re-state your opinion.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 7



Key Paragraph- Page 62

“I ain’t ready to turn back,” Charlotte said, and she began to feel that her escape from Mr. Millshark depended on her being able to drive this team. Ebenezer climbed back in and Charlotte set out. With a steadier hand, she pulled the horses back on course. She tried another turn and again, muddled the horse and wagon...Charlotte took the reins again and again...Every time she mixed up the reins, she knew what she had done wrong, and she tried not to do it again. After a dozen runs, she brought them around clean.

Writing Prompt

Charlotte knows that her escape from her past is directly correlated to her ability to drive a team of horses. She is determined and wants to get it right. Do you think that being driven to do something helps you learn it better and faster?

Write a one-paragraph argument in which you support or oppose the above statement? Write a clear and concise argument and acknowledge the counter argument. Defend your stance with clear and relevant details and facts. Conclude by restating your argument.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 8



Writing Prompt

Charlotte was doubting herself and letting memories haunt her. Ebenezer tells her to set everything else aside and be a horseman. He once again instills confidence in her. Do you think he is right to put her back on the coach and in charge?

Write a one-paragraph argument in which you justify Ebenezer's actions. Argue regardless of your opinion that he did the right thing for his company and for Charlotte. State your opinion, offer the conflicting opinion. Support claims with relevant support and logical flow. Use formal language and transitions. Conclude by re-stating your opinion.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 9



Writing Prompt

Charlotte sees that moving west will give her more opportunities to do what she wants to do and will be one step closer for her to reach her goals.

Using information from today's reading write a 2 paragraph argument in which you either support Charlotte's and her decision to move to California or Ebenezer and his desire to keep her and Providence. Evidence to support your thesis must come from today's reading pages 82-85. Support your claims with logical reasoning. Maintain a formal style throughout your writing.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 10



Key Paragraph- Page 88

“With the men in the mines, many women are running the farms and should be able to make decisions that affect their properties and their families. Woman have already organized in the East, have already held a Woman’s Rights Convention.”

Writing Prompt

The woman on the street has a great argument/ reason for women gaining and needing the right to vote. **Write a one-paragraph counter argument that gives one clear and concise reason that woman should not be given the right to vote. Conclude by re-stating your opinion.**

In preparation for final writing product:

- Research voting rights and woman’s suffrage. You may want to look at:
www.history.com
www.pbs.com
www.righttovote.org/Importance-of-voting.html

Based on your findings

- list 5-10 reasons voting should be considered one on of your most important rights.

List 5-10 reasons voting should not be considered an important right.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 11



Writing Prompt

What is the difference between vision and sight? Can you have one without the other? Think about Charlotte and her sight. Think about what her vision is. Do you think she can get what she wants if she stays focused on her vision?

Write a 1-2 paragraph argument in which you defend her need to stay focused on her vision. Give logical reasons and examples to defend your statement. Write with a formal style. Conclude with a statement that supports your viewpoint.

In preparation for final writing product:

Continue to research suffrage.

What did woman have to endure in order to gain their right to vote.

Highlight 5-7 key facts.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 12



Writing Prompt

In what way do you admire Charlotte's persistence? She has a vision of the life she wants and she keeps going after it, despite the obstacles. Why is it important to stay vision and goal focused despite the obstacles that come your way?

Write a one-paragraph argument in which you defend Charlotte's need for persistence? Is her persistence about driving horses or about something bigger? Use examples from the reading to support your claim? Conclude by stating why she needs to be persistent

In preparation for final writing product:

Continue to research suffrage.

What historical event leads to woman being treated more equally in the workforce? Why?

List 3-5 ways this event assisted the woman's movement?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 13



Writing Prompt

Think about what it means to be a woman during this time? Life is hard and you work hard, yet you don't have the same rights. Do you think that the bank would have sold Charlotte the land if they knew she was a woman?

Write a 3-paragraph letter to the bank president in which you either agree or disagree with his viewpoint. Clearly state your view and the counterview point. Give facts from the reading and external sources and use clear transitions. Close by re-stating your viewpoint.

In preparation for final writing product:

Continue to research suffrage.

What historical event leads to woman being treated more equally in the workforce? Why?

List 3-5 ways this event assisted the woman's movement?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 14



Writing Prompt

In what way is Charlotte continuing to try to change the world for the better? Do you think her silent fight will be effective? Why or why not?

Write a one paragraph argument in which you state if you think her fight will be effective or not. Use facts from the reading, your own experiences, and other sources to support your viewpoint. Use formal writing style and language. Conclude by re-stating your viewpoint.

In preparation for final writing product:

- Research civil responsibility. List 3-5 duties you feel are your most important responsibilities as a citizen.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
Riding Freedom, Day 15



Key Paragraph- Page 138

In the words of her obituary, “Who shall longer say that a woman can not labor and vote like a man?”

Writing Prompt

What do you think the significance of this last quote is? Was it a surprise that this book was about a real person? Optional: Send an email to the author telling her how you liked the book. You may choose to do a little more research about the author as well.

In preparation for final writing product:

Based on the research you have done on suffrage. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper or school paper. In it argue why you believe that voting should or should not be considered one of your most important civic rights. Use the facts you have found to support your argument. As your write acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. Use credible sources to help you defend your writing. Write in a formal style. Conclude your writing by supporting the viewpoint originally stated.