

FLANNEL BOARD SCENES: RECREATING AMELIA BLOOMER

Grade Level: Primary

You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!

By Shana Corey and Illustrated by Chesley McLaren

Book Summary

This picture book tells the story of Amelia Bloomer, who lived in Seneca Falls, New York during the women's rights movement of the 1800's. Working with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Amelia helped create the Ladies' Temperance Society and was the editor of their newspaper. Amelia grew tired of wearing long skirts with hoops, petticoats, and tight corsets. She popularized a more comfortable outfit with bloomers, which was very controversial. Many people remarked that Amelia was not a proper lady. The author uses humor in both text and illustrations to attract the interest of young children.

Social Studies Standards

Time, continuity, and change

Civic ideals and practices

Materials

Book

Flannel board

Felt in several colors

Scissors and glue

Two-pocket folder

Lesson

Read *You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!* and divide into small groups. Give each group materials. Have students glue felt to two-pocket folders and stand them upright, creating their own flannel boards. From the remaining felt, ask students to draw and cut out characters and props to retell the story of Amelia Bloomer. Have students decide who will be responsible for characters, narrator, and who will be in charge of placing and removing the parts. Practice flannel board retellings. Have each group perform their retelling for the class.

Discussion questions

- What kinds of things did Amelia Bloomer think were silly?
- What did she do about the things that she thought were silly?
- Did other people agree that these things were silly?
- How were the rights of women different long ago?
- How did Amelia Bloomer and Elizabeth Cady Stanton help to bring women more rights?
- What can people do to change things if they don't believe something is right?