

INGALLS PUBLISHING GROUP, INC
GUIDES FOR THE TEACHER

Title	<i>Once Upon A Different Time</i>
Author	Marian Coe, illustrations by Paul Zipperlin
Copyright	2004 (paperback) ISBN: 1932158537
Awards	Clark Cox Award from the North Carolina Soc. Of Historians
Genre	Historical Fiction
Setting	Abingdon, VA, Appalachian Mtns., Asheville, NC
Time Period	1884
Synopsis	<p>Charles Dudley Warner, a travel writer, has received an assignment for a horseback trip from the railroad at Abingdon, VA through the wilds of the Appalachian Mountains to the "fashionable resort" of Asheville, NC. He is to be accompanied by "the professor" and a guide, Starney. Warner's cousin, studying for the summer at Oxford, prevails on him to allow his fiancé Lily and her aunt Tess to join the party.</p> <p>Coe has taken excerpts from Warner's actual articles and woven a romantic adventure. She retained the places and names that will be recognized by modern readers.</p>
Most Compelling Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Regional stereotypes and prejudices are revealed and debunked to a great extent.○ The culture of the Appalachian region of the 1880s is highlighted as are family and place names that persist.
Lexile / AR Level	Lexile pending
Ties with Curriculum	<p>SS: The novel is authentically set in the Appalachian Mtns of North Carolina in the 1880s. The author is an historical character, and excerpts from the series of travel articles published in <i>Atlantic Monthly</i> are included in the story. Other characters symbolize the attitudes of "Yankees" and others in the culture.</p> <p>ELA: Compare the formal, and authentic, language from the Warner excerpts with informal language portrayed in the dialogue and assess the author's effectiveness.</p>
Learning Activities	<p>Discussion questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Charles Dudley Warner was a real travel writer, in the late 19th c., who wrote about adventures in Africa and Italy, for example. What about the trip from Abingdon, Va to Asheville, NC, made it of interest to him and/or to his editors at <i>Atlantic Monthly</i>?2) The series of articles written from this experience was entitled, "On Horseback." (See excerpts in the novel.) What are some reasons Warner and the others chose this means of transport?

- 3) Starney and Lily may be considered symbols of the "Yankee" and the "Southerner." What stereotypes and misconceptions did they have of each other - from dialogue in the novel? What sorts of stereotypes do we have today of people from other parts of the U.S.?
- 4) Referring to Warner's articles, how does he characterize the people they meet along the way? How would we view them?
- 5) The entertainment in Asheville involved "Minstrel Shows," in which comedians and musicians, both African-American and white, performed in black makeup. Lily strongly objects, though others seem to enjoy the show. How do we respond to "ethnic" humor today. Do we feel differently if the performer is really a member of the group being portrayed?

Become an Expert: The novel is full of things we might be unfamiliar with in our lives in the United States today. Choose a topic inspired by the story, become an expert, and present your research to the class -- either as individuals or in groups. (Technology, such as PowerPoint, may be used to assist effective communication.)

To make the presentation more interesting, present "in character" -- a character inspired by the novel or the setting or time period, or as a current character such as an archaeologist.

- 1) Clothing of the late 1800s.
- 2) Railroads and other transportation of the late 1800s.
- 3) Your town in the late 1800s.
- 4) Engagement and marriage in the late 1800s.

Map Quest: Follow the route of the travelers on a modern map. Are the towns and settlements mentioned still on the map?

Sensitive issues with suggested ways to present them

- Romantic commitment. Lily is engaged to Warner's cousin, but realizes that she has fallen in love with Starney.

Other Resources

- Author's website: <http://www.mariancoe.com/books.html>