

Family Paideia Seminar Plan

Text: **The** Pudding Like a Night on the Sea from ‘The Julian Stories’ by Ann Cameron

Ideas, Values: **Punishment, Family, Temptation, Truth**

Pre-Seminar Content

Big Ideas Chat:

Have you ever taken something you were not supposed to? Have a brief chat about why you did it, how it felt, and if you were caught. (Parents, try to not place too much judgement on past actions and think about sharing a time from when you were a child.)

1st Read:

Read aloud the text while family and/or friends listen.

Vocabulary:

Check to see if there are any words that need to be talked about before the discussion begins. Listeners or readers can use context clues to help figure out possible definitions or use a dictionary or device to get a formal definition.

2nd Read:

Allow another participant in the discussion to read the text aloud or reread the story (or view the YouTube video @ <https://youtu.be/Dv-5g1AtR9o>.) Make note to focus on the “Ideas and Values” listed above as you listen or read.

Pre-Seminar Process:

* Share why you are having the discussion.

(Sample script from our classroom Paideia Seminars: Modify to fit your household.)

*“A Paideia seminar is a collaborative, intellectual dialogue about a text, facilitated with open ended questions.”*

*“The main purpose of seminar is to arrive at a fuller understanding of the textual ideas and values, of ourselves, and of each other.”*

* Describe what you want to accomplish.
* Set a Family Goal.
* To balance the talk time
* To refer to the text
* To ask a question
* To speak out of uncertainty
* To build on others’ comments

Seminar Questions:

* Opening (Identify main ideas from the text):
	+ What would be another good title for this story? Have younger kids share first if they feel comfortable and advance by age. (Don’t share your why until after everyone has had a chance to answer.)
	+ Why did you pick the title that you did? (Anyone can share)
* Core (Analyze textual details):
	+ What were you must surprised by in this story? Why? (Anyone can share)
	+ Why do you think Huey and Julian hid under the bed when both their mother and father knew they were in the house?
	+ Why does the author decide to make the father in the story seem to be angry before teaching the boys a lesson? How do you know this?
	+ Do you think Julian, the older brother, should have gone along with Huey, the younger brother, in defying their father’s instructions?
	+ Should older siblings always “know better” or be more responsible because of their age? Why or why not?
	+ When the author describes the pudding, she says “It will taste like a whole raft of lemons. It will taste like a night on the sea.” What descriptive words or similes might you use to describe your favorite dessert? (Why?)
* Closing (Personalize and apply the ideas):
	+ If you just made a “special treat” for a family member how might you react if you found out it was tasted by others in the family without your permission?

Post-Seminar Process:

*“Ask each person what they liked most about the discussion.”*

* Have the family do a quick check of the discussion goal.

Post Seminar Content:

* Transition to Writing/Family Activity:

Review and discuss key ideas that you heard, said and thought during the family seminar.

Pick a recipe for review and make the food item as a family.

* Brainstorm:

Talk about how you went about selecting your recipe.

Has it been passed down in the family or is a digital recommendation?

* Writing:

What makes one recipe better than another? Why are some recipes “family secrets” while others are shared freely in books and on the internet?

Write a brief response to these two questions.

Finally, write a closing that includes whether you would freely share your favorite recipe or if you would keep it to yourself or just immediate family.

This Paideia Lesson Plan was created by:

 Name: Jeremy Spielman

 Organization: National Paideia Center

\*Text is attached if open sourced.

\*Text is cited if it needs to be procured.

<https://www.gpsd.us/cms/lib/NJ01000249/Centricity/Domain/241/The%20Pudding%20Like%20a%20Night%20on%20the%20Sea.pdf>