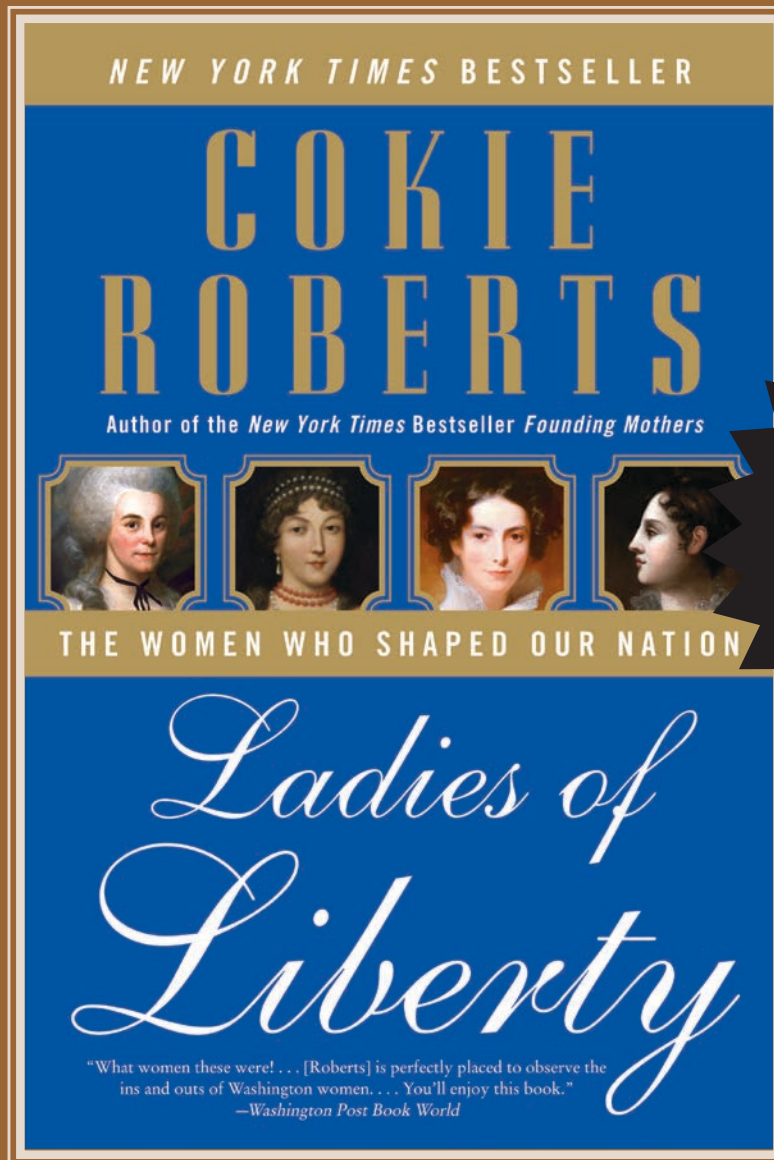


A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO



**ALIGNED
TO THE
COMMON
CORE**

“Cokie Roberts weaves a colorful story of the trials and triumphs of the women of the post-Revolution. . . . not only informative but entertaining.”

—*Denver Post*

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ABOUT THIS BOOK:

Cokie Roberts' *Ladies Of Liberty* continues the story where *Founding Mothers* left off: detailing the stories of the fascinating women who influenced the Founding Fathers, starting with America's second First Lady, the strong-willed and opinionated Abigail Adams, and ending with the election of her son and daughter-in-law, John Quincy and Louisa Adams. *Ladies of Liberty* introduces readers to a cast of historically significant and interesting women, including Thomas Jefferson's fiercely loyal daughters, Martha and Maria, the vivacious "Queen Dolley" Madison, and heroines like Sacagawea, the young Native American guide of the Lewis and Clarke expedition and Rebecca Gratz, the real life inspiration for the novel *Ivanhoe*. *Ladies of Liberty* meets the standard for **Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity** for all high school grade levels. Schools are encouraged to adopt the text at the grade level where it best fits with ELA and Social Studies curriculum. It is an excellent anchor text for courses in American history and American literature.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

The questions and activities in this teaching guide were written to support standards-based instruction and are directly linked to many of the Common Core State Standards for ELA and Social Studies. The primary areas of connection are in the ELA standards for **Writing and Reading: Informational Texts** for grades 11–12 and in the literacy standards for **Key Ideas and Details** and **Craft and Structure** in **History/Social Studies**. A complete list of the Common Core State Standards can be found at <http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>.

This Teacher's Guide is divided into two sections. The first, "Guided Reading Questions," will help students with reading comprehension and understanding. The second section, "Research and Writing Topics" will encourage students to engage in significant research and writing projects related to the text.

BEFORE YOU READ:

In the Acknowledgments and Author's Note, Cokie Roberts explains that *Ladies of Liberty* "is not the story of everyday women in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, many of whom had much harder lives than the elite women who had the ears of the Founding Fathers" (xi). Research what life was like for these "everyday women", including women that were in bondage (a general overview of women's lives can be found pages xxi and xxii). If possible, trace your own family history back to the early nineteenth century. Would your ancestor's experience be similar to that of an "elite woman" or an "everyday woman"? Present your family tree to the class, highlighting the significant women in your own family.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7-8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7

Guided Reading Questions

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1

INTRODUCTION

1. According to Roberts, what roles did American women play at the beginning of the nineteenth century?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
2. Explain the historical difference between the correspondence of men and the correspondence of women. Do you think these differences still exist? Explain your answer. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3

CHAPTER ONE: THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS 1797-1801

1. Why would the death of George Washington be considered a “national tragedy”? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
2. What evidence suggests that John Adams valued the opinion and contributions of his wife, Abigail?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
3. What reasons did John Adams have for fearing a war with France? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3
4. Contrast the personalities of the Martha Washington and Abigail Adams. How did each of these women contribute to their husband's presidencies? How did each woman view the role and responsibilities of being First Lady?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
5. Describe the courtship of John Quincy Adams and Louisa Catherine Johnson. How did Abigail Adams view her future daughter-in-law? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
6. What role did Charles Pinckney play in politics? Who was his mother? What was she famous for doing?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
7. Why was Mary Pinckney unhappy in France? Who was John Marshall? What details suggest that he valued his wife's company and opinion? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3
8. Why was Abigail angry about the way the public and the press treated her husband? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
9. What was the XYZ affair? How did the affair help turn public sentiment away from France?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3
10. What were Abigail's personal and public opinions about the possibility of a war with France?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
11. Explain the Alien and Sedition Acts passed in 1798. Why were these acts deemed necessary? Why were they extremely unpopular? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3
12. Who supported the Alien and Sedition Acts? Who opposed them? Summarize the positions in favor and in opposition of the unpopular acts. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
13. When was the Twelfth Amendment passed? Why was it necessary? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
14. During Abigail Adams tenure as First Lady, how did the opportunities available to women as educators, writers, and activists change? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
15. Who was Isabelle Graham? What role did she play in the emergence of educational institutions for women? What other women played key roles in these early schools for girls and women? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
16. Who was Susanna Rowson? Describe her accomplishments. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
17. Summarize the plot of Rowson's novel *Charlotte Temple*. What was Rowson's attitude towards her protagonist? Why do you think the novel was so popular? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7

18. What true story was Hannah Foster's novel *The Coquette* based on? Explain how Foster challenged the sexual double standard in her fictionalization of the story. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7**
19. How did the spread of publishing and the birth of libraries in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century open avenues for women to find a voice and audience for their views, concerns, and questions? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
20. Describe the political views of Judith Sargent Murray. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**

CHAPTER TWO: THE FIRST TERM OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND THE LADIES OF THE PLACE 1801-1805

1. What statement did Thomas Jefferson make by walking to his inauguration? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
2. Describe the political climate surrounding Jefferson's election. Who was his rival in the campaign for presidency? Why was the transfer of power from Adams to Jefferson particularly significant? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
3. What did Jefferson believe about the role of women in politics? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
4. Since Jefferson was a widower, who did he look to fill the social role that a First Lady would have been expected to play? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
5. Describe Dolley Payne Todd's childhood and young adulthood. When and how did she meet James Madison? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
6. Explain the scandal that plagued Jefferson's presidency. Was there any truth to the rumors? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
7. Describe the relationship between Martha Jefferson Randolph and Maria (Polly) Jefferson Eppes and their father. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
8. Explain how President Jefferson offended the British ambassador. What reason did he have for insulting the Merrys? Explain how Dolley Madison helped smooth over the situation. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
9. What was the Louisiana Purchase? What circumstances led to Napoleon's willingness to sell the territory? Why was it strategically important for America to own this land? How did the residents of New Orleans feel about the Louisiana Purchase? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
10. Who were the Ursuline nuns? What assurance did Jefferson have delivered to them? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
11. Who was Betsy Patterson Bonaparte? What was scandalous about her appearance? How did Napoleon react to Jerome's marriage to an American? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
12. What personal tragedy led to a renewal of correspondence between Abigail Adams and Thomas Jefferson? What issues did they debate in their letters? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
13. Describe the early years of John Quincy and Louisa Adams's marriage. What were sources of difficulty in their marriage? What events and issues united them? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
14. Explain the circumstances of the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton. What was the prevailing public opinion towards the tradition of dueling? What was the outcome of the duel between Burr and Hamilton? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**

CHAPTER THREE: THE SECOND TERM OF THOMAS JEFFERSON AND WOMEN TALKING POLITICS 1805-1809

1. Who was Rosalie Calvert? How did her opinion about America change over time? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2**
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
2. What was the goal of the Lewis and Clark expedition? Who was Sacagawea and what role did she play in the expedition? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
3. How can you tell that the men on the expedition deeply valued Sacagawea's wisdom, experience, and assistance? What did they do to express their gratitude? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
4. Summarize the dispute regarding the fate of Sacagawea. What do you believe happened to her? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
5. What advantages helped Mercy Otis Warren become a writer? What project took her thirty years to complete? How did the public receive her *History*? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
6. Summarize the ways that Warren's book differed from the historical accounts written being written by her male contemporaries. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.6**
7. What were the sources of disagreement between Mercy Otis Warren and John and Abigail Adams? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
8. Who was Theodosia Burr Alston? What was remarkable about her childhood? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
9. What crime were Burr and his daughter accused of plotting? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
10. Describe the relationship between Theodosia and Aaron Burr. Give specific evidence from text that illustrates their relationship. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
11. Explain the Burr conspiracy. What was Aaron Burr's goal? How involved was Theodosia in the plot? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
12. Describe the trial of Aaron Burr. What was the verdict? Do you agree with the jurors and judge? Explain your answer. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
13. Who was Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton? As a child, what acts of heroism did she witness? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
14. Describe Elizabeth (Betsy) and Alexander Hamilton's marriage. What does Roberts mean when she observes that Betsy "serves as the prototype for the woman we've seen so many times since" (162). **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.4**
15. Why was it especially ironic that Alexander Hamilton left his wife and children destitute when he passed away? How did Elizabeth react after the death of her husband? What social cause did she become involved in? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
16. Why did women's benevolent societies have to pass rules stipulating that only unmarried women were allowed to serve as treasurers? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
17. Why did Martha Randolph move into the executive mansion during Jefferson's second term? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
18. What does the social life of Mrs. Merry suggest about the social obligations of a politician? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1**
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1
19. What does the marriage between Eliza Washington and Thomas Law and suggest about the romantic options available to women? How did society respond to women who had affairs? How much have things changed since then? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3** **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
20. What did Louisa and Abigail Adams disagree about? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**

21. Why did Thomas Jefferson convince Congress to pass The Embargo Act? What were the intended and unintended consequences of the Act? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
22. Explain why Madison's rival in the presidential race, Charles Pinckney, would have stated that he was "beaten by Mr. and Mrs. Madison"(182). **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.4**

CHAPTER FOUR: THE FIRST TERM OF JAMES MADISON AND THE PRESIDENTESS

1. What are the connotations of the word "queen"? What qualities does the nickname "Queen Dolley" suggest that Dolley Madison possessed? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.4**
2. Describe the "smear campaign" that opponents launched against Dolley Madison during her husband's campaign. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
3. Why did people send requests for pardons to Dolley Madison? Whose request did she ignore? Why do you think she decided to stay out of this particular situation? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
4. What White House holiday tradition did Dolley Madison start? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
5. How was the Non-Intercourse Act different from the Embargo Act? What do the letters of Rosalie Seer Calvert reveal about the impact that they had on everyday citizens? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
6. Why was Louisa Adams upset when her husband accepted a diplomatic position in a Russia? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
7. Describe Louisa's experience as the wife of an American ambassador in Russia. What challenges did she face? What opportunities did she enjoy? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
8. Who was Kitty Johnson and why was she in Russia? Whose romantic attention did she attract? Did anything come of this flirtation? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
9. Describe the cultural growth that was taking place in America at the start of the nineteenth century. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
10. While slavery was still an enormous problem, what steps did some women take to begin to move towards abolition and emancipation? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
11. Describe Elizabeth Seton's early life and religious conversion. What circumstances led to her opening the first American parochial school for girls? How did Pope Paul VI honor her in 1975? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
12. Describe the relationship between Joel Barlow and Ruth Baldwin. What political role did Joel Barlow play? How did Ruth assist him? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
13. Explain the way that Abigail Adams attempted to meddle in her son's political career. Was she successful? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
14. Explain why the death of John Quincy Adams's infant daughter brought Louisa and Abigail Adams closer together. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
15. Explain the "war fever" that was gripping the nation during the presidency of James Madison. What countries did Americans want to fight? Why did they want to wage war? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
16. Why did Aaron Burr seek asylum in France? What happened to his daughter Theodosia? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
17. Describe the role that Dolley Madison played during her husband's second campaign for president. What was the outcome of the election? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**

CHAPTER FIVE: THE SECOND TERM OF JAMES MADISON AND "THE BRAVEST AMERICAN SOLDIER" 1813-1817

1. Explain the similarities in the lives of Elizabeth Kortright Monroe and Dolley Madison? What kept the two women from being close friends? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
2. Explain Roberts's observation that "dinner party diplomacy often is more effective than that waged in official meetings"(249). **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
3. What reason did the British have for threatening America? How did Americans respond to the threats? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
4. Explain the role that Russia played in mediating the tension between the United States and Great Britain. Who was given the task of representing America in these negotiations? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
5. Describe Abigail Adams's position regarding war with Britain. Did her son, John Quincy Adams, share his mother's views? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
6. Why was the loss of their daughter Nabby especially heartbreaking for John and Abigail Adams? What effect did Nabby's death have on the relationship between the John, Abigail and Thomas Jefferson? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
7. Describe the events that led to the British invasion of Washington. What landmarks did they burn? How did Dolley Madison manage to escape? What artifact was she able to save? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
8. What effect did the burning of Washington have on both domestic and foreign public opinion towards American sovereignty? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
9. Who helped negotiate the Treaty of Ghent? What did the Treaty guarantee? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
10. After the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, why did British troops proceed to try to capture New Orleans? Why did they think they would be successful? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
11. Explain the role that Andrew Jackson played in the Battle of New Orleans. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
12. Explain the role that Louise Livingston played in the Battle of New Orleans. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
13. Describe the ordeal that Louisa Adams faced on her journey from Russia to France. How did she respond to the threats that she encountered? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
14. How was Dolley Madison's experience of decorating the executive mansion different the second time around (after the first house was destroyed)? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
15. Who was Madison's chosen successor? What was the outcome of the election of 1816? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**

CHAPTER SIX: THE PRESIDENCY OF JAMES MONROE AND SOME CHARACTERS TO CONTEMPLATE 1817-1825

1. Why were the first few years of Monroe's presidency christened the "era of good feeling" (324)? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
2. Compare and contrast the personalities of Dolley Madison and Elizabeth Monroe. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
3. Describe the courtship of Elizabeth and James Monroe. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
4. Describe the political role that Elizabeth and James Monroe played during the French Revolution. How did Elizabeth demonstrate courage during this time? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
5. Explain James Monroe's position on slavery. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
6. Why were members of Washington society unhappy with the new First Lady? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**

7. Who was Rosalie Calvert? Why was she in Washington? What does her correspondence suggest about the social scene in the nation's capital? What observation did she make about the difference between American and European marriages?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2
8. How did Abigail and Louisa Adams's relationship change over time? What did Louisa do that earned her mother-in-law's respect? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
9. How did John Adams react to the death of his wife? What does his reaction suggest about their marriage?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1
10. What was the result of the Adams-Onis Treaty? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
11. What was "the Missouri question"? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
12. What distinguished Hannah Adams from other female American writers? What subjects did she write about?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
13. Why is Rebecca Gratz described as "the foremost American Jewish woman of the nineteenth century"(342)?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1
14. What fictional story is Rebecca credited with inspiring? What is the basic plot and theme of this story?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a
15. Explain how Louisa Adams served as a contrast to the First Lady. What was the "etiquette question"? How was it resolved?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3
16. Explain the Missouri Compromise. What was Louisa Adams's position regarding slavery? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
17. What did Louis Adams note as being ironic about the reluctance of Congress to support legislation that would provide for the care of orphans? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1**
18. Who was Fanny Wright? Summarize her positions on slavery and the rights of women. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
19. Why is Emma Willard an important figure in the history of American education? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
20. What did Rose Philippine Duchense hope to accomplish as an educator? Was she successful?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1
21. What was remarkable about Lucy Terry Prince? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
22. Explain Louisa Adams's "Tuesday campaign". What was her objective? Was she successful?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1
23. Detail some specific examples of ways that Louisa helped pave the way for her husband's political campaign. In what ways did she actively campaign "against" the wife of his political rival? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
24. Explain the Monroe Doctrine. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3**
25. Describe the relationship between Louisa Adams and Louise Livingston. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.2**
26. Explain how John Quincy Adams ended up being named the fifth president of the United States.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.3

Research and Writing Topics

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5

ARGUMENTATION PROMPTS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.1a-e Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

1. In the Introduction to *Ladies of Liberty*, Roberts observes that “It’s much easier to band together, as the Founding Fathers did, to fight against an outside enemy than to hold together while differing philosophically on ends as well as means – on what kind of country would and should emerge from this American experiment” (xvi). Research a time in American history when citizens united against a common enemy and compose an argument paper regarding the role that these events have played in American history. What lessons do you think could be applied to our modern political discourse?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7
2. Roberts titled the first chapter of the book “The Presidency of John and Abigail Adams”. Compose an argument essay that answers the following question: Do you believe that history should record presidencies as a joint effort between the president and their spouse, or should only the president be acknowledged? Support your argument with well-researched and correctly cited evidence. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.9
3. Abigail Adams believed that “frequent popular elections” were engines to “corrupt and destroy the morals of the people” (39). Do you believe that American elections are too frequent, not frequent enough, or just right? Compose an argument that addresses the question of whether or not we need to change the frequency of elections.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1a-e
4. As early as Adam’s second campaign, the question of whether or not the personal moral character of a presidential candidate should be considered became a topic of debate. Do you believe personal integrity and morality are important qualities for a presidential candidate? Should a candidates sexual indiscretions, drug, alcohol or tobacco use, and/or religious beliefs (or lack thereof) be considered during presidential campaigns and debates? CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1a-e
5. Although Vice President Alexander Hamilton was famously unfaithful to his wife, Elizabeth, she stood by him and forgave his indiscretions. It is not uncommon for political wives to remain with, and even publicly forgive, a philandering spouse. Research a political marriage that was rocked by allegations of infidelity and compose an argument about whether or not the politician’s wife should have stayed with her husband. Support your position with correctly cited evidence.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.8
6. Using the evidence and information that now exists regarding the Burr conspiracy, recreate the trial of Aaron Burr including his daughter, Theodosia, as a co-conspirator. Both the prosecution and defense should carefully research and document their arguments. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1a-d
7. Research the history of women’s benevolent societies (such as [Graham Windham](#)) Describe the circumstances that led to the formation of the first societies? What causes did the societies embrace? Are there still benevolent societies largely dedicated to the concerns of women? What role do you think these societies will (or should) play in the future? Create a multimedia Public Service Announcement promoting a past or present women’s benevolent organization of your choice.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.6 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.5
8. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, Emma Willard founded the first American college for women (362). Research the history of women’s colleges and create a video advertisement promoting a women’s college of your choice. Include the history of the college and an argument about the benefits of attending a school dedicated specifically to educating women. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.5 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.6 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.1a-e

9. The lives of the Founding Mothers were dictated in large part by their inability to make choices regarding family planning. Research the path towards reproductive rights for women. When were women first given access to medical information about preventing pregnancy? Who had access to this information? When were women given access to methods of contraception? How did the advent and accessibility of reliable methods of birth control impact the women's movement? Why does this issue continue to be a topic of debate? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8**

INFORMATIVE/EXPLANATORY PROMPTS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.2a-e Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

1. While the relationship between fathers and sons is a universal theme in literature, less attention is focused on the relationship between fathers and daughters. Roberts notes, "the way fathers benefitted from their daughters wisdom turned out to be one of the many happy surprises of this book"(xvii). Compose an analytical essay that examines a significant relationship between a father and daughter, either in history or in literature. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5**
2. Early female American writers composed memorial poems or other political tributes to male politicians. Analyze a selection of these memorial and/or political poems. To what extent do you believe these poems give a voice to the political sentiments of the women that wrote them? To what extent, if any, do you believe the women stifled their own opinions? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5**
3. The American public has always been fascinated by the way that the First Lady dresses, and several First Ladies have been viewed as "fashion icons". Even during the birth of our nation, the First Lady's attire was a topic of discussion (262). Research the fashion of one of the First Ladies. How did their style reflect and/or inspire popular fashion? What political statement did their clothing make and how did it reflect their husband's political agenda? Did they have a special relationship with a specific designer? Create a multimedia presentation analyzing the fashion and style of one of the First Ladies. (Note to teachers: since some First Ladies, like Jackie Kennedy and Michelle Obama will be extremely popular choices, teachers may wish to consider randomly assigning names to students.) **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.5 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
4. As First Lady, Dolley Madison began the tradition of the Easter Egg Roll (189). Research the emergence of the Easter Egg Roll or another White House tradition. Which First Lady was in the White House when the tradition started? What is involved in the event? What reason did they have for beginning the tradition? Who originally participated? How has the tradition changed over time? Prepare an informative speech about the tradition. If possible, include a demonstration in your presentation. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.4**
5. *Ladies of Liberty* includes an appendix with a variety of recipes from the women highlighted in the book. Create a video of a cooking show where you demonstrate how to prepare one of these traditional recipes. If possible, bring in the food that you prepared to share with the class. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.6 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.5**
6. One of the duties of the First Lady has been to oversee the décor of the White House. Research the interior decoration of the White House. What objects in the White House have a special provenance? Which First Ladies have been the most involved in the décor? Which have been the least involved? How does the décor of the White House reflect American ideals and values? Prepare a presentation that includes visuals that support your analysis. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.5**
7. Research the evolution of American political parties. What role have women played in the different parties? Were there some parties that seemed to be more aligned with the concerns of women? What current political parties or organizations do you feel best represent the voices of female constituents? **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.2a-e CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**

8. For women like Lucretia Mott, religious faith led to abolitionism, which eventually led to the fight for women's rights and the suffrage movement (368). Research the importance of the Seneca Falls Convention of 1848. Who were the leaders of the convention? What was their platform? How has the women's movement changed over time?
**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.2a-e CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
9. John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams, formed the first "political dynasty" in America. Research another famous American political family. Who were the patriarchs and matriarchs of the dynasty? How did each the older generation influence subsequent generations? What factors led to the family becoming involved in politics? What is the family's legacy?
**CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.2a-e CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9a**
10. Select a First Lady (from Martha Washington through Michelle Obama) and research her life - looking for details about her childhood, education, and marriage. What challenges did she face once her husband became President? What causes did she advocate for? How does (or will) history remember her? Prepare an informative speech about the woman that you selected and share your findings with the class. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.9 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.4
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.8**

NARRATIVE PROMPTS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.3a-e Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

1. In the Introduction, Roberts explains her personal connection to the topic of women in politics (xix). Interview the women in your own family and compose a narrative and reflective essay about the role that political activism has played in the lives of the women in your family. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.1 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.11-12.4
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5**
2. When Abigail Adams had to leave Philadelphia, she wrote to her sister: "There is something always melancholy, in the idea of leaving a place for the last time. It is like burying a friend" (39). Describe a place that has been especially significant in your own life. How has that place been like a "friend"? How has it impacted the way you interact with the world?
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5
3. The Lewis and Clark expedition has captured the imagination of generations of Americans. Read some of the primary documents related to the expedition (many are available digitally through the [National Archives](#)) and compose a narrative account of a portion of the expedition. You may choose to write from a first or third person point of view.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.9 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4
4. As First Lady, Dolley Madison received and responded to numerous appeals and requests for pardons or assistance. Compose a fictional letter to Dolley Madison from the point of view of a citizen during her husband's presidency. As a class activity, exchange letters with a classmate and reply to the letter as if you were Mrs. Madison. To extend this activity, compose a personal letter to the current First Lady and send it to the White House. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4**
5. The experience of early settlers in the era of Westward Expansion was detailed in letters and journals. One of these journals, *A Journey to Ohio in 1810, as Recorded in the Journal of Margaret Van Horn*, is available through the digital archives at [Project Gutenberg](#). Read a portion of Margaret Van Horn's journal and compose a short story inspired by her journal.
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.9 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5
6. The mystery regarding the fate of Theodosia Burr captured popular imagination (239). Research the theories surrounding her disappearance and create a fictional account of her last days. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.7
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.11-12.7 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5**
7. While many early female writers composed poems eulogizing male American heroes, few American women had poems written to honor their lives. Choose of the women profiled in the book and compose a poetic eulogy for her. Maintain the style and tone of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century American poetry. **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.4
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.11-12.5**

The Works of Cokie Roberts

Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation

From This Day Forward with Steven Roberts

Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation

We Are Our Mothers' Daughters: Revised and Expanded Edition

Other Titles of Interest

Abigail and John: Portrait of a Marriage by Edith Gelles

American Jezebel: The Uncommon Life of Anne Hutchison, the Woman Who Defied the Puritans by Eve LaPlante

American Tapestry: The Story of the Black, White, and Multiracial Ancestors of Michelle Obama by Rachel L. Swarns

Pocahontas: Medicine Woman, Spy, Entrepreneur, Diplomat by Paula Gunn Allen

A Widow's War: A Novel by Sally Gunning

The Women Jefferson Loved by Virginia Scharff

About This Guide's Author

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