

Law Day Resources - 2016

Theme: "The Rule of Law as Portrayed in Art—from Comedy to Tragedy" Classroom Resources – Secondary

References to the rule of law in the arts are extensive. They may be found in the performing arts, visual arts, and literature. Following are some resources that may direct you toward some interesting ways to experience the law outside its own formal institutions.

LITERATURE –Did you know that Shakespeare mentions law more than any other profession?

Books

ABA Harper Lee Prize for Legal Fiction

2015 winner, *The Secret Magic* by Deborah Johnson

http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/the_secret_of_magic_awarded_the_2015_harper_lee_prize_for_legal_fiction

Other annual winners of this competition may be found on www.abajournal.com

Law Lit From Atticus Finch to *The Practice*: A Collection of Great Writing About the Law

Edited by Thane Rosenbaum, 2007

Published by The New Press

Poetry

Poetry of the Law: From Chaucer to the Present

Edited by David Kader and Michael Stanford, 2010

Published by University of Iowa Press

Poetic Justice: Legal Humor in Verse

JD DuPuy and ML Philpott, 2013

Published by Poetic Justice, LLC

PERFORMANCE ART

Songs

Patriotic Melodies

The Library of Congress

Stories behind many of the songs that have now become part of the American national heritage.

<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/ihas/html/patriotic/patriotic-home.html>

"Anti-war protest songs of the '60s and '70s" by Dave White, Classic Rock Expert

Classicrock.about.com

<http://classicrock.about.com/od/toppicklists/tp/Anti-War-Protest-Songs-Of-The-60s-And-70s.htm>

"The Return of the Protest Song," by Salamishah Tillet

Published in *The Atlantic*, January 20, 2015

<http://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/01/the-return-of-the-protest-song/384631/>

Plays/Operas

Hamilton

An Emmy Award winning hip-hop, pop, and rap musical about the Founding Fathers by Lin-Manuel Miranda
<http://www.hamiltonbroadway.com/>

Scalia/Ginsburg

An American comic opera by Derrick Wang, inspired by the opinions of U.S. Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Antonin Scalia
<http://www.derrickwang.com/scalia-ginsburg/>

VISUAL ART

Movies/Film

ABA Journal, “The 25 Greatest Legal Movies”

To Kill a Mockingbird with small-town attorney Atticus Finch, played by Gregory Peck is Number One in this list. (This movie is now being adapted for Broadway by Producer Aaron Sorkin.)

Others movies on the list include *12 Angry Men*, *Erin Brockovich*, and even the comedic *My Cousin Vinny*.

http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the_25_greatest_legal_movies/

ABA Division for Public Education

“Part III The Rule of Law in Literature and Movies”

Includes questions for discussion on Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix

<http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated/publiced/features/Part3DialogueROL.authcheckdam.pdf>

Cartoons/Political Cartoons

Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Cartoonists

<http://nieonline.com/aaec/cftc.cfm?cftcfeature=history>

Political Cartoons and Public Debates

Teacher’s Guide Primary Source Set

Library of Congress

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/political-cartoons/pdf/teacher_guide.pdf

**Law Day Activity Resources are provided by the Nebraska State Bar Foundation and the
Nebraska Supreme Court**