

Available Additional Reading List

Between Church and State: Religion and Public Education in a Multicultural America by James W. Fraser, St. Martin's Press 1999

Resources Below Suggested by Christine L. Compston, Ph.D., Historian:

John Patrick, The Supreme Court of the United States: A Student Companion

Edwin S. Gaustad, Church and State in America

Edwin S. Gaustad, Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land

All three are published by Oxford University Press and are written for young adults.

On the topic of teaching evolution, I would recommend Ed Larson's Summer for the Gods, a Pulitzer-Prize winner on the Scopes Trial. The final chapter is of special interest to teachers because Larson speaks directly to the issue of using the film Inherit the Wind in the classroom. The book itself is written for an educated lay audience.

Peter Irons has published a couple of books that also deal in part with church state issues: The People's History of the Supreme Court and Courage of Their Convictions. The former is a very readable overview of Supreme Court decision-making, which obviously includes references to major church-state decisions. The latter would be of interest to students because it addresses the question of why individuals have decided to challenge laws that infringed on their rights. Susan Epperson (Epperson v. Arkansas) is one of the individuals whose story is told. Lillian Gobitis and Ishmael Jaffree are also featured.

Irons has also published the transcripts of a number of First Amendment cases; tapes of Supreme Court oral arguments (nicely introduced, explained, and edited) are sold along with the book. My students have loved listening to these, each of which is under half an hour. The titles of the two sets Irons has published are May It Please the Court and May It Please the Court: The First Amendment.

Fred Friendly and Martha Elliot, in The Constitution: That Delicate Balance, have a brief chapter entitled "God in the Classroom." It is a good introduction to the topic for high school students.