



Appendix Materials for “I Like Mamie” Curriculum

[Appendix 1](#): How to Read A Caption (Used with Lesson 1: Who is Mamie?)

[Appendix 2](#): The Eisenhowers and the 1950s (Used with Lesson 2: The Elephant in the Room)

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Appendix 1: How to Read A Caption

Questions to Ask and Answer	Observe, Deduce, and Infer
<p>Who is the source of this information?</p> <p>Is the information trustworthy, based on fact?</p> <p>Is there something missing from this passage that I expected to find?</p> <p>Is there anything that could have been explained more thoroughly for greater clarity?</p>	
<p>What is the author of the caption telling me?</p> <p>What does the author of the caption want me to understand?</p> <p>Is it different than what he is telling me?</p> <p>How do I know?</p>	
<p>Is the author trying to convince me of something? What?</p> <p>What is my evidence?</p> <p>Why might s/he be trying to convince me?</p>	
<p>What is the first thing that I remember about this passage?</p> <p>Why is it so memorable?</p>	

Excerpted and adapted from Nancy Boyle’s “Closing in on Close Reading.” *Educational Leadership* 70 (4). December 2012/January 2013.



Appendix 2: The Eisenhowers and the 1950s

Excerpted from *Eisenhower National Historic Site Museum Collections*. Gettysburg, PA: Eisenhower National Historic Site, 2012.

The 1950s are remembered as a peaceful, carefree time in American history. Elvis gyrated, kids hula-hooped and the economy boomed. However, it was also a decade marked by fear and disillusionment. Schoolchildren ducked and covered, suburbanites dug bomb shelters and Senator McCarthy's communist witch-hunt ruined innocent lives. From 1953-1962, President Dwight David Eisenhower steadily steered America through a pivotal decade following a course that he termed "the middle way."

During Eisenhower's presidency, the average American standard of living rose to an all-time high. The Great Depression and wartime rationing were over. New jobs were created to meet the pent-up demand for consumer goods. The GI Bill gave millions of veterans the opportunity to obtain a college education and help in purchasing new homes. By the 1950s, the population explosion known as the "baby boom" was well underway. Families with children flocked to the suburbs.

For many, the Eisenhowers were a symbol of the country's power and prosperity, and the personification of 1950s America. With Ike's bald head and steadfast grin, he was the emblematic image of the era, offering reassurance that these were the best of times. During the eight years of the Eisenhower presidency, Ike brought the Korean War to a negotiated truce and strove to reduce tensions with the Soviet Union. At home, he balanced the budget, launched the space program, and established the Interstate Highway System.

In Mamie, America had a First Lady with whom it could truly identify, and who shared the country's popular interests and middle class values. She watched soap operas, played Scrabble, served TV dinners, wore noisy charm bracelets, and enjoyed listening to Lawrence Welk. She was deeply devoted to her family and proudly heralded her role as a traditional housewife with lines such as "Ike runs the country, I turn the pork chops."

As First Lady, Mamie took great pride in running the White House and delighted in her role as a fashion icon. However, it was clear to her that her most important duty as First Lady was to support her husband. Although sometimes criticized for not championing a cause such as Eleanor Roosevelt had, Mamie publicly supported civil rights, personally responded to over 1,000 letters each month, and launched up to five charities a week.



Appendix 3: Nikita Khrushchev Visits the Eisenhower White House: 1959

Excerpt from Mamie Doud Eisenhower: The General's First Lady by Marilyn I. Holt (pp. 93-94).

“Dress became a problem too, when Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev visited in 1959 with his wife, two daughters, son, and son-in-law. Relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were just beginning to thaw, and Khrushchev agreed to visit the United States prior to a summit in Paris. As courtesy demanded, there would be a state dinner, and the first lady, along with the White House staff, worked for weeks going over the details. On the day of the event, Mamie was informed that the Khrushchev party refused to ‘dress’ for dinner. The men would wear business suits; the women, street-length dresses. Khrushchev exhibited mercurial moods on his American tour. One moment he played the jovial tourist; the next instant, he lectured Eisenhower and the press on what he saw as America’s wasteful culture of consumption. Not dressing for dinner was a Khrushchev fly-in-the-ointment move designed to upset plans for the White House dinner, but Mamie refused to be bullied or pressured. A state dinner was a formal occasion and would be treated as such. She insisted that Ike wear white tie. She wore a gown of gold brocade by Scaasi. As it turned out, the Soviet premier appeared in formal attire; his wife wore a ‘simply cut evening gown of iridescent material.’”

“During his U.S. tour, Khrushchev became a ‘benign and entertaining guest’ when he visited the Gettysburg farm. Ike’s intention was to show the Soviet leader the domestic side of American life; Mamie, John, and Barbara Eisenhower, and the Eisenhower grandchildren were at the farm to meet Khrushchev. As gifts, he gave the children Christmas ornaments... In addition, Khrushchev suggested that the children accompany their parents and grandparents on a trip to Moscow after the upcoming Paris summit.”

Oral history below from National Park Service [Teaching with Historic Places](#) (Eisenhower)

- 1) *Excerpt from Eisenhower National Historic Site oral history interview with John S. D. Eisenhower, Eisenhower's son, January 26, 1984, on the porch in the Eisenhower home, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.*

“When my father was president, he developed the habit of bringing visiting world leaders to the farm. Such informality, he reasoned, would make them feel at home. Visiting dignitaries soon got the word of such favored treatment, so everybody had to be brought to the farm, so they would receive what everybody else had! In September 1959, the White House laid it on for Khrushchev to come to Camp David, though we later learned that he was suspicious at first about Camp David — what kind of a place it was. The Russians were always afraid for their lives when they came over here. However, when Khrushchev found out what a nice place Camp David was, he was delighted.”

“To show him how he lived, when not in Washington — and to make him feel at home — Dad took Khrushchev for the four-minute trip to the farm in a helicopter. It's a long trip by car from Camp David down here. My family was at our home when he came, and we were told to bring all four children up here. Khrushchev sat in this chair (near the



television) and Dad sat over in that chair (by the easel). Barbara, the kids and I sat on the couch and on settees. (Mother was not here.) Khrushchev leaned back and beamed. Playing the role of grandfather, he told each child what his or her name meant in Russian. He couldn't figure Susan, which is sort of remarkable in a way, because Susan means something like "serene," I believe. (That name seemed to be the most obvious.) Khrushchev also invited the children to go to Moscow—which is another story. Maybe they were pressed a bit for time.... But, Khrushchev, in these surroundings, came off at his best — genial, grandfatherly, folksy.”

- 2) *Excerpt from Eisenhower National Historic Site oral history interview with General Andrew Goodpaster, White House staff secretary, November 7, 1983.*

“My recollection is that we had all of our activity [with the Berlin Crisis] down in Washington until Khrushchev came to visit at Camp David....I was at Camp David, the official part of it. I think [Eisenhower took world leaders like Khrushchev to the farm] so that he would have an opportunity to talk in circumstances that would encourage a little more freedom of discussion. It would not be so heavily official and it would be his opportunity to get more of what he called "the other man's equation," and also to convey, in a more constructive and positive setting, his own views.”

References:

1. Holt, Marilyn Irvin. *Mamie Doud Eisenhower: The General's First Lady*. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas, 2007. Pages 93-94.
2. Hegeman, Carol A. “Thaw in the Cold War: Eisenhower and Khrushchev at Gettysburg.” National Park Service, Teaching with Historic Places.