

Jane Addams **1860 – 1935**

Jane Addams founded the world famous social settlement Hull House in 1889. One of the first settlement houses in America, her efforts improved the lives of thousands of immigrants and provided a model for future reformers. She enjoyed international acclaim for her efforts towards world peace and was the first American Woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931. Jane won worldwide recognition as a pioneer in social and labor reform, women's suffrage, the founding of the American Civil Liberties Union and as an advocate of internationalism.

1860 - born in Cedarville, Illinois.

1882 - graduates from Rockford College.

18?? - travels to Europe with father and stepmother.

18?? - ill, invalid.

1885/1887 -?? - travels to Europe with Ellen Starr, visits Toynbee Hall, a settlement home in London.

1889 - founds Hull House.

1905 - appointed to Chicago's Board of Education.

1908 - becomes the first woman president of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections.

1910 - receives the first honorary degree ever awarded a woman by Yale University.

1911 - named Vice-president of the National American Women Suffrage Association.

1912 - campaigns for Theodore Roosevelt and the Progressive Party.

1915 - chairmanship of the Women's Peace Party, an American organization. Accepts presidency of the International Congress of Women, convened at The Hague.

19?? - expelled from the Daughters of the American Revolution because of her anti-war rhetoric.

1920 - founds American Civil Liberties Union.

1931 - Nobel Peace Prize.

1935 - dies of stomach cancer, funeral/memorial attended by thousands.

Why was Jane Addams controversial?/What people said about her

"Most dangerous woman in America."

"Addams favors Reds." (Chicago Tribune)

"The greatest woman internationalist."

"The mother of social service."

"The first citizen of Chicago."

Reformer, on the forefront of every social movement of the time.

Advocated the rights of the poor and indigent, immigrants, women....

Hull House

Offered medical care, kindergarten and child care facilities for the children of working mothers, after school clubs, an employment bureau, art gallery, libraries, a gymnasium and legal aid. Also classes in languages, vocational skills, history, music, art, dancing, drama and English classes for immigrants.

Notable sources:

www.hullhouse.org

www.greatwomen.org

www.wikipedia.com

www.infoplease.com

www.famousamericans.net

www.nobelprize.org

www.uic.edu/janeaddams/hull/ja_bio

www.lkwdpl.org

Jane Addams, A Biography. James Linn (1935)

Jane Addams, Democracy and Social Ethics, A.F. Scott (1964)

Jane Addams of Hull House, 1860-1935. Margaret Tims

Field Trips

Hull House

Personal Essays/REMEMBER

* Write a narrative describing a time you helped someone.

* Describe a time you felt like a newcomer. Consider how an immigrant would feel coming to Chicago at the turn of the century, probably not speaking English well and having limited job resources.

* Jane's visit to the Toynbee Hall Settlement House in London ultimately resulted in her starting Hull House. Describe a time you were radically changed by a single experience.

Describe a real person who reminds you of Jane Addams.

Reports/DISCOVER

* Write a short biographical sketch of Jane Addams.

Opinions/DECIDE

Argument/prove a point

* Statements about her.

* Write a short biographical sketch of Jane Addams.

* Respond to one of these statements:

"Jane Addams's life proves that great people have grand visions."

"Jane Addams would not be successful in Chicago today."

* How have women been discriminated against? Working within the confines that existed in the late 19th century, Jane Addams was one of the first suffragists. In what ways did she improve women's lives? How?

* In 1993 the National Women's Hall of Fame ranked Eleanor Roosevelt and Jane Addams as the two most influential women in America in the twentieth century. Do you agree?

* Compare and contrast Jane Addams and Annie Oakley. (Annie Oakley was a world-renowned sharpshooter and exhibition shooter, who also engaged in extensive philanthropy for women's rights. After her

death it was discovered that her entire fortune had been spent on charities.)

* Discuss Jane Addams feminist and social ethics. The Hull House founder was an outspoken advocate for peace prior to World War I. Although not particularly liberal in her views, she believed in doing the right thing. Present-day feminism has been frequently opposed to social systems; social ethic has not recognized feminism. What do you think?

The stories told in both the *Twenty Years at Hull House* by Jane Addams and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, both fit the classic pattern of the spiritual pilgrimage. Each sets out on a journey, seen simply as part of life – one that everyone takes as fully. Discuss the spiritual pilgrimage/journey's of Jane Addams and Malcolm X.

Historical Fiction/IMAGINE

* Write a conversation between Jane Addams and Lucy Parsons. (Lucy Parsons was a prominent feminist and early civil rights pioneer. Chicago police labeled her, "more dangerous than a thousand rioters.")

* Write a short story from the point of view of an immigrant whose life is changed dramatically at Hull House.

* Pretend you are Jane Addams and just about to open Hull House. What are your hopes, expectations, and dreams? Write a diary account of two days in her life.

* Would you classify Jane Addams as a conservative or a liberal? Keep in mind that the idea of conservatism has changed dramatically in many ways throughout the 20th century. How do you think she would have characterized herself?

* Conduct a question/answer interview with Jane.