



Amy Coney Barrett | Lesson Plan

How does Amy Coney Barrett demonstrate valor in her life?

Students will understand Amy Coney Barrett's role as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, her commitment to originalism, and how her faith and family values have shaped her legal career and personal life.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key life events of Amy Coney Barrett.
- Explain Amy Coney Barrett's originalist judicial philosophy.
- Analyze how her faith and family values influence her professional decisions.
- Evaluate her impact as a woman in a high-level leadership role and a role model for balancing career and family.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Originalism:** The judicial interpretation of the Constitution as it was understood at the time it was written.
- **Judiciary:** A system of courts that interprets and applies the law.
- **Dissent:** A disagreement with the majority opinion in a court ruling.
- **Due Process:** Legal requirement that the state must respect all legal rights owed to a person.
- **Constitutional Law:** Laws that derive from the Constitution of a country.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.2, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.W.9, CCRA.L.1, CCRA.L.2, CCRA.L.4, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2

Academic Subject Areas: Biography, Women of History, Historical Figures

What You'll Need

- Video: *Guess or Mess: Amy Coney Barrett* (Watch [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Guess or Mess: Amy Coney Barrett* (Click [Here](#))
- PragerU Kids *Women of Valor* biographical book: *Amy Coney Barrett* (Download [Here](#))
- Large paper (or poster boards) and markers for group work.

Lesson Plan: Watch and Complete (45 minutes)

Introduction to Amy Coney Barrett (5 minutes):

1. Begin by discussing the concept of **valor**: a combination of courage and moral integrity, where someone acts for a noble cause or higher purpose, often at personal risk. Explain that valor involves a commitment to justice, defending important values, and standing up for what is right, even when it's difficult. Ask students how they see examples of valor in their own lives or in the world around them.



2. Display the *Amy Coney Barrett* digital book using an electronic device. Briefly explain how Amy Coney Barrett exemplifies the ideals of valor through her commitment to interpreting the Constitution as an originalist, standing firm in her faith, and balancing a high-profile legal career with her family life. Highlight her significant role on the U.S. Supreme Court and how her strong principles guide her decisions.

Barrett's Legal Legacy Huddle (25 minutes):

1. Read the "Meet Amy Coney Barrett" section on page 2 of the biographical book as a class, with the teacher leading the reading to model fluency and intonation and set the tone for the lesson.
2. Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a different section of the digital book to explore. The following are recommendations:
 - Group 1: Young Amy (page 3)
 - Group 2: Early Career, A Large Family (page 4)
 - Group 3: Circuit Court Judge (page 5)
 - Group 4: Supreme Court Justice, First Supreme Court Term (page 6)
 - Group 5: In Brief: The U.S. Supreme Court (page 7)
3. Allow time for each group to read their assigned section, taking turns reading aloud. As students read, they should discuss the main ideas.
4. Provide each group with a large piece of paper or a poster board and markers to write down key points and any interesting facts or quotes they find.
5. Allow each group one to two minutes to present their findings to the class. After each presentation, provide time for classmates to ask questions and discuss the content.

Worksheet Workshop (15 minutes):

1. Distribute individual copies of the worksheet to each student. The worksheet is designed to be adaptable to different ability levels. Provide clear instructions on how to complete each section, explaining the steps as follows:
 - **Symbols of Leadership:** Students will draw a symbol representing one of Amy Coney Barrett's core principles (for example, scales of justice, a shield, a gavel, a cross, or a family tree) and explain its meaning.
 - **Vocabulary of Valor:** Have students choose a word from the glossary and use it in a sentence that shows their understanding of its meaning.
 - **Comprehension Questions & Patriot Pop Quiz:** Explain that students should complete this section of the worksheet individually. (Note: This section corresponds to the *Guess or Mess* episode about Amy Coney Barrett and can be used to play along while watching. See "Extension Activity" below.)
 - **Making Connections:** This section can serve as a long-answer portion of the worksheet or as a class discussion.

Reflection Round-Up (10 minutes):

1. Summarize the key takeaways from the lesson about Amy Coney Barrett.

- Champion for Originalism: Amy Coney Barrett is an originalist, interpreting the Constitution as it was originally intended in her role as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.
 - Commitment to Faith and Family: She balances her legal career with her deep commitment to faith and raising seven children.
 - Judicial Philosophy: Barrett applies the law based on its text, not personal views, as shown during her confirmation hearings.
 - Legacy of Valor: Barrett exemplifies valor by steadfastly upholding justice, truth, and moral integrity, even under external pressure.
2. Think-Pair-Share: Have students recall one fact they learned about Amy Coney Barrett and share it with a partner.
 3. Wrap up with an encouraging thought, for instance: Valor is standing firm in truth and doing what is just, no matter the challenges or opposition. Like Amy Coney Barrett, you can demonstrate valor by holding fast to what is right and acting with integrity in all you do.
 4. Call to Action: This week, stand firmly for what is true and just, whether by helping someone in need or upholding honest values. Be a model of courage and integrity in both word and deed and inspire others to follow your example through action.

Extension Activity: (20 minutes)

Guess or Mess Trivia Show: After the lesson, students can participate in the *Guess or Mess* trivia show for Amy Coney Barrett—direct students to the Comprehension Questions section of the worksheet. Students can play along with the contestants to see if they can answer the trivia questions correctly.

Don't have time for a full lesson? Quick Activity (30 minutes)

Read the *Amy Coney Barrett* book together as a class, with students taking turns reading aloud. Then, watch the *Guess or Mess* video and play along with the trivia questions.