EDUCATOR FIELD TRIP GUIDE

EUDORA WELTY HOUSE AND GARDEN
Welcome to the Eudora Welty House & Garden

Dear Educator,

A visit to the Eudora Welty House and Garden (EWHG) will provide students with the chance to learn about one of the South’s most accomplished writers by spending time in the very rooms where she did her writing and editing. When you tour the home, explore the garden, and look at the exhibits in our Education and Visitors Center (EVC), you and your students gain an understanding of Welty’s appreciation for the arts, her writing methods and sources of inspiration, and her role in literature, the community, and beyond.

In this field trip guide, you will find the information needed to plan your visit, as well as a history of the Eudora Welty House and Garden, pre-visit and post-visit classroom activities, and a scavenger hunt for your class to complete on the day of the trip. This guide also contains information about our special programs and additional resources, including our free lesson plans and teaching units. All classroom activities and teaching resources are designed to fit the Mississippi Common Core standards. Thank you for your interest in visiting the Eudora Welty House and Garden. We hope to see you soon!

— Eudora Welty House and Garden Staff

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Trip Tip:

Our staff can provide the Welty Sentence Game, a fun and educational word game played by Welty and her friends, for your students on their trip. Just let a staff member know if you’re interested!
Planning Your Trip

Scheduling a Visit

Tours by Reservation:
Tuesday–Friday: 9 and 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.
Second Saturday of the Month: 9 and 11 a.m.

Education and Visitor Center (EVC) Hours
Monday–Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Call 601-353-7762 or email tours@eudoraweltyhouse.org to schedule your visit. Please schedule your visit at least two weeks in advance.

Admission:
Adults $5.00
Students $3.00
Children (under 6 years): FREE
Group rate (13 or more): $1.00 off for each adult
Free on the 13th day of each month

Tour Structure:
The structure of the tour depends on the size and schedule of your group. Typically, a visit to the EWHG takes about an hour and a half and consists of a guided tour of the house, a walk through the garden, viewing a twenty-minute orientation film, and the opportunity to view our exhibits in the EVC. We can accommodate up to sixty students at a time. Groups larger than sixty could split their visit between the EWHG and another museum in the area. Please let our staff know if you are interested in this option or if your group has time constraints.

Cancellations and Weather Policy:
We trust that cancellations will be made only in emergency situations. Should changes be necessary, please notify us as soon as possible so we can make adjustments in our tour and docent schedules. In the case of inclement weather, groups may visit as planned but are also offered the option to reschedule.

Guidelines
Share these with your class and chaperons:

✔ Please leave backpacks, totes, food, and drinks in the vehicle.
✔ A staff member or docent will greet the group on Pinehurst Street in front of the EVC.
✔ Restrooms are located in the EVC. No restrooms are available in the Welty House.
✔ Please remind your students not to touch, sit, or lean on anything in the house.
✔ Photography is not allowed inside the house, but we encourage you and your students to take photos in the garden, EVC, and clubhouse.
✔ If your class is studying a particular Welty story or novel, please let our staff know ahead of time so that we can provide the best and most relevant tour possible.
✔ Bring supplies for student work: pencil, notebook, and necessary field trip activity sheets.
✔ Please contact us if you will be more than ten minutes late or will not be coming.

Getting to the Eudora Welty House and Garden

1119 Pinehurst Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 39202

Directions: From I-55, take the Fortification Street exit (96c). Travel west on Fortification, turning right at the first stop light onto Greymont Street. Travel north, turning left onto Pinehurst Street at the second four-way stop. The Eudora Welty House is in the second block on the left (1119 Pinehurst Street, Jackson, Mississippi, 39202).

Parking: Street parking is available directly in front of the Eudora Welty House and Garden and EVC or on one of the side streets bordering the site.
Designated a National Historic Landmark in 2004 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Eudora Welty House is of exceptional national significance. It was the home of internationally acclaimed author Eudora Welty from 1925 until her death in 2001 and the home where she wrote almost all of her fiction and essays.

In 1925 at age sixteen, Eudora, her parents Christian and Chestina, and her two brothers Edward and Walter, moved to their new home on Pinehurst Street in the Belhaven neighborhood. The Tudor Revival style house was designed for the Welty family by Wyatt C. Hedrick, of the firm of Sanguinet, Staats, and Hedrick in Fort Worth, Texas. It was the same firm that had designed the Lamar Life Building in downtown Jackson, then under construction for the Lamar Life Insurance Company, of which Christian Welty was a senior officer.

The Eudora Welty House is one of the most intact literary houses in America. Its exterior, interior, and furnishings reflect the house as it was in 1986 when Welty made the decision to bequeath her home to the state of Mississippi: paintings, photographs, objects d’art, linens, furniture, draperies, rugs, and, above all, thousands of books in their original places. With virtually every wall lined with books, it is evident that this family of readers valued the written word. The library includes works produced by classic writers through the ages and by the best minds of the twentieth century.

Welty always considered this her family home, and, in giving it to the state of Mississippi, she emphasized that it was the house of her family, a family that honored books and reading. She did not want a “house about her” but about literature and the arts in culture.

The garden at the Eudora Welty house was a labor of love designed and created in 1925 by Chestina Welty. Today it remains a labor of love for garden restoration consultant Susan Haltom and a committed core of volunteers. They have named themselves “the Cereus Weeders” in honor of Welty’s beloved night-blooming cereus plant, and they have carefully restored the garden to the 1925–1945 period when Eudora Welty worked at her mother’s side planting, watering, and weeding.

The garden has been open to the public since 2004, but tours of Welty’s home did not begin until April 2006. After years of searching for a location for the Education and Visitors Center, the state finally acquired the property immediately next door at 1109 Pinehurst, which now houses the permanent exhibits, offices, film room, and restrooms. It was officially opened to the public in 2009.

The Welty House is administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

For more information, visit [http://mdah.ms.gov/new/visit/eudora-welty-house](http://mdah.ms.gov/new/visit/eudora-welty-house)
What You Will See on the Field Trip

The Education and Visitors Center (EVC)
At the EVC, visitors will see an orientation film, exhibits, and artifacts. These include early manuscripts, Welty’s Pulitzer Prize, and a selection of her honorary degrees and international awards. The permanent exhibits will provide students with information concerning Welty’s early education and inspirations, as well as her development as a writer. Temporary exhibits are switched out on an annual basis.

The House
Tour guides will lead students through the house, providing information and anecdotes about Welty, her home, and the artifacts inside. Students will see the original furniture, artwork, books, photographs of family and friends, typewriter, copies of manuscripts, and much more.

The Garden
On a field trip to the Eudora Welty House, students will have the opportunity to walk through and explore the garden. Outdoor interpretive signs offer students more information about Welty, the plants they will see, and how Welty used her knowledge of the natural world in her writing. As designed by Chestina Welty, the garden plan ensures that something will be in bloom during each season. Students can also walk down the path to the clubhouse, a replica of the original one built by Eudora’s two younger brothers, Edward and Walter.

Trip Tip:
Many educators take advantage of the beautiful garden by leading their own writing activities on the grounds, or by allowing students to bring a picnic lunch. If you wish to use the site in one of these ways, please contact a staff member.
## Curricular Connections

A field trip to the Eudora Welty House and Garden and the lesson materials provided in this guide align with Mississippi College-and Career-Readiness Standards.

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Before the Field Trip: Classroom Resources

Before visiting the Eudora Welty House and Garden, it may be helpful to:

- Familiarize students with Eudora Welty and her work.
- Read and discuss one of Welty's stories. Suggestions for different grade levels are provided below.
- Complete the pre-visit activities included in this packet.

**Resources**

The following resources are available on the Eudora Welty Foundation's website and can be accessed at https://eudorawelty.org/resources/

Two teaching units based on Welty's stories “Where is the Voice Coming From” and “The Whistle” contain guides for reading and activities for students. The units apply Mississippi Department of Education College and Career Readiness standards and will help students understand broader concepts and historical narratives that helped inspire Welty’s works of fiction.

A readers’ guide and synopsis of *The Optimist’s Daughter*, Welty’s Pulitzer Prize–winning work, is also available.

The “Welty and the Craft of Writing” Media Resource Kit contains a DVD of rare film footage of Welty reading three of her most beloved stories—“Why I Live at the P.O.,” “A Worn Path,” and “Petrified Man”—and an interactive CD-Rom of manuscripts, correspondence, and photographs by Welty related to each of the stories. A teacher guide is also included. The kit is made possible by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Comcast Foundation, and Feild Co-operative Association, Inc. It is available free to teachers on request as long as supplies last.

**Suggestions for Reading**

**Elementary:** "The Little Store" is the perfect model for an exercise in autobiographical writing. Welty remembers scenes from her childhood, making the story a good example of different types of narration. Its descriptive and sensory language will appeal to younger students. Educators can also introduce the concept of allusions, in this case to Greek mythology, which are abundant in Welty’s work.

**Middle School:** "A Visit of Charity," "A Memory," "The Winds," and "A Sweet Devouring" are well-suited for middle school students due to their themes of adolescence. Other topics to explore include the ideal vs. the actual, the power of imagination, the romantic disposition, and the concept of memory.

**High School:** *The Optimist's Daughter*, "A Worn Path," "Why I Live at the P.O.," "Where is the Voice Coming From?", and *One Writer's Beginnings* cover the concepts of characterization, story structure, symbolism, imagery, narration, and theme. Each of these works will encourage students to develop their close reading skills. Welty uses advanced vocabulary, vivid imagery, and a variety of narrative points of view in her writing. Themes are not explicitly stated, and instead emerge from the setting, characterization, and patterns of language and interpretation. These works will challenge and delight students.

**Trip Tip:**

Students will benefit from a field trip to the EWHG whether or not they have read Welty’s work. It is certainly not a prerequisite, but these suggestions for reading are a good starting point for teaching Welty in the classroom.
During the Field Trip: Tour Questionnaire

Directions: Complete the following during your visit to the Eudora Welty House. Answers can be found in the exhibit text, the film, and in the guided tour of Welty’s home.

1. In what year was the Welty House built?

2. How old was Welty when her family moved into this home?

3. Why did Welty give her home to the state of Mississippi?

4. How many books were found in the house? What does that tell you about Welty?

5. What did Welty call her editing method? What is it called today?

6. How is using a manual typewriter different from a computer? Why is this important?

7. Why is there a hole in the wall in the kitchen?

8. Why do you think Welty burned her manuscript?

9. Why is the breakfast room in an "L" shape?

10. During which general time period was Welty most prolific at writing?
11. Why did Eudora's nieces call the sitting room the "cool room?"

12. Out of the objects in the sitting room, which do you think was Welty's most prized possession? Explain your reasoning.

13. Where was Welty's Pulitzer Prize for *The Optimist's Daughter* (1973) found? What do you think this says about Welty?

14. What does the set of Charles Dickens books tell you about Welty's mother, Chestina?

15. Into how many foreign languages has Welty's work been translated?

16. How many pages of letters were found in the house? Why is this important?

17. Which object or story stood out to you the most? Why?

18. Why do you think it is important for the citizens of Mississippi to have access to this site?

19. Now that you have seen her home, what does this house tell you about Eudora Welty?
During the Field Trip: Tour Questionnaire Answer Key

**Directions:** Complete the following scavenger hunt during your visit to the Eudora Welty House. Answers can be found in the exhibit text, the film, and in the guided tour of Welty's home.

1. In what year was the Welty House built? **1925**
2. How old was Welty when her family moved into this home? **sixteen**
3. Why did Welty give her home to the state of Mississippi? Encouraged by her friend Charlotte Capers, the head of the Department of Archives and History, Welty donated her home, not to be a shrine to her, but instead to inspire the creative pursuits of others.
4. How many books were found in the house? What does that tell you about Welty? There were more than 5,000 books found in the house. Welty was a voracious reader.
5. What did Welty call her editing method? What is it called today? "Cut and pin." Today we would call this cut and paste.
6. How is using a manual typewriter different from using a computer? Why is this important? The keys of a manual typewriter have to be pressed much harder than those on a computer. This made the writing process much more physical, giving Welty more of a connection to the craft and the tool itself.
7. Why is there a hole in the wall in the kitchen? The hole is the location of the flue for the original wood-burning stove. Welty burned her only copy of "Petrified Man" in it.
8. Why do you think Welty burned her manuscript? Welty was frustrated that her story had been rejected by Robert Penn Warren.
9. Why is the breakfast room in an "L" shape? The family had to make a closet for the room next door so they could rent out the room after Christian Welty died.
10. During what general time period was Welty most prolific? Welty was writing and publishing the majority of her works in the 1940s.
11. Why did Eudora's nieces call the sitting room the "cool room?" It was the only room in the house that was air-conditioned, even up until Welty's death in 2001.
12. Out of the objects in the sitting room, which do you think was Welty's most prized possession? Explain your reasoning. Answers will vary but may include the framed letter from E.M. Forster (she admired his writing and was excited he sent her a fan letter); the swan feather (it was given to her by a friend in connection to *The Wild Swans at Coole* by Yeats).
13. Where was Welty's Pulitzer Prize for *The Optimist's Daughter* (1973) found? What do you think this says about Welty? It was found in a cardboard box in the sitting room closet. She did not display any awards in her home because she was very humble.
14. What does the set of Charles Dickens books tell you about Welty's mother, Chestina? Welty's mother loved Charles Dickens and her collection of his works. She helped inspire Welty's love of reading and writing.
15. Into how many foreign languages has Welty's work been translated? **forty**
16. How many pages of letters were found in the house? Why is this important? More than 15,000. Welty had many friends and wrote to them often. Her letters are helpful in the study of her relationships and her work.
17. Which object or story stood out to you the most? Why? Answers will vary.
18. Why do you think it is important for the citizens of Mississippi to have access to this site? Answers will vary.
19. Now that you have seen her home, what does this house tell you about Eudora Welty? Answers will vary.
## During the Field Trip: Garden Seek and Find

**Directions:** Complete the following scavenger hunt during your visit to the Eudora Welty House. Mark things you find with an X. In the blank boxes, draw any flowers or plants you find and list their names.

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<th>National Historic Landmark Marker</th>
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During the Field Trip: Tudor Revival Architecture Activity

**Directions:** Look at both the Eudora Welty House and the Education and Visitors Center to find the answers to the following questions.

1. **Oriel windows** are projecting bay windows, which jut out from the main wall of the building but do not reach the ground. There is one on the property. Where can it be found?

   ________________________________________________________________

2. **Lattice windows** have bars arranged like an openwork screen. Where is the smallest lattice window on the EVC?

   ________________________________________________________________

3. Windows that are hinged on one side so that they can swing out or in to open are called **casement windows**. How many can you find on the Welty House? Describe where they are.

   ________________________________________________________________

4. **Tudor arches** are wide and pointed and often used in doorways, windows, and fireplaces. Where do you see Tudor arches?

   ________________________________________________________________

5. **Chimney pots** are cylindrical pipes of brick, terra-cotta, or metal placed on the top of chimneys. Are there any on the Welty House? What do you think their function is?

   ________________________________________________________________

6. These three different types of brickwork can all be found on the EVC. Describe where each is located.

   **Diamond:** __________________________

   **Herringbone:** _______________________

   **Basketweave:** _________________________
Tudor Revival Architecture Activity Answer Key

Directions: You will need to look at both the Eudora Welty House and the Education and Visitors Center to find the answers to the following questions.

1. Oriel windows are projecting bay windows, which jut out from the main wall of the building but do not reach the ground. There is one on the property. Where can it be found? The one oriel window on the property can be found on the second story on the front of the EVC.

2. Lattice windows have bars arranged like an openwork screen. Where is the smallest lattice window on the EVC? The smallest lattice window (that isn't part of a grouping of other lattice windows) can be found on the EVC front door.

3. Windows that are hinged on one side so that they can swing out or in to open are called casement windows. How many can you find on the Welty house? Describe where they are. There are seven total. There is one above the front door, one on the west wall of the downstairs bathroom, two on the west wall of the kitchen, and three on the south wall of Welty's bedroom.

4. Tudor arches are wide and pointed and often used in doorways, windows, and fireplaces. Where do you see Tudor arches? There are tudor arches on both the entrance to the EVC and the Welty house.

5. Chimney pots are cylindrical pipes of brick, terra-cotta, or metal placed on the top of chimneys. Are there any on the Welty House? What do you think their function is? There are chimney pots on the chimney on the east side of the house. They improve the chimney's draft to help draw away noxious fumes.

6. These three different types of brickwork can all be found on the EVC. Describe where each is located.

   Diamond: On the chimney.
   Herringbone: Framing the lattice windows and in the rounded arches on the facade.
   Basketweave: Under the lattice windows on the facade and east wall.
After the Field Trip: Classroom Activities

The following activities are designed for educators to use in the classroom after the field trip.

1. Activity 1: Objects with Meaning is adaptable for grades K–12.
2. Activity 2: Investigative Interview is adaptable for grades 4–12.
3. Activity 3: Essay Prompt is designed for grades 7–12.
4. Activity 4: Create Your Own Timeline is adaptable for grades 4–12.
Activity 1: Objects with Meaning Teacher's Guide

Objectives:
Students will pick an object from their own home that is important to them and consider what it says about who they are.

Procedures:
1. Ask the students what specific objects in Welty's home they remember. Discuss what they mean and how they help us understand what type of person, friend, family member, or writer Eudora Welty was.
2. Distribute the Objects with Meaning handout.
3. Have students complete the assignment individually.
4. If time allows, have the students share their stories with the class.
Objects with Meaning

*Directions*: In the space provided, draw an object in your home that is important to you. In the lines provided, write a paragraph about the object. Describe what it looks like, how it makes you feel, where it came from, and what kind of story it tells about you.

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Activity 2: Investigative Interview Teacher's Guide

In One Writer's Beginnings Eudora stresses the importance of listening, claiming, "Long before I wrote stories, I listened for stories. Listening for them is something more acute than listening to them. I suppose it's an early form of participation in what goes on." Have students complete the following activity in order to understand the importance of active listening and how it can strengthen their writing.

Objectives:
Using the Investigative Interview handout provided, students will interview a partner and then write a short biography about their fellow student.

Procedure:
1. Provide the students with the Investigative Interview handout.
2. Divide students into pairs and have them interview their partners.
3. After completing the questions, have students write a short biography about their partner.
4. If time allows, have the students share their stories with the class.

Extension Activity: Have students illustrate their stories to display in the classroom.
Investigative Interview

*Directions: Using the questions provided, interview a partner. Then write a short biography of your partner after the interview to share with the class.*

1. What is your name? _______________________________________________________________________

2. How old are you? _______________________________________________________________________

3. Where do you live? Have you always lived there? _______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Tell me about your family. Do you have brothers or sisters? _____________________________________________________________________________

5. What do you like to do after school? _______________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Do you have a favorite movie? A favorite book? Why are they your favorite? __________________________________________________________

7. What would you like to be when you grow up? ______________________________________________

8. What is your favorite subject in school? Why? ______________________________________________

9. What is your favorite place you've ever traveled to? Why? ___________________________________

10. What is your favorite food? ______________________________________________________________

11. Try to remember the best day you've ever had. Can you describe it? What made it so special? ______________

12. What do you think makes you unique? _____________________________________________________

13. How do you think your friends would describe you? ________________________________________
Activity 3: Essay Prompt Teacher's Guide

Objectives:
Students will use their experience at the Welty House and their own personal stories to complete the essay prompt.

Procedure:
1. Provide the students with the Essay Prompt.
2. Have the students work individually to write a two to three page essay.
3. If time allows, have the students share their stories with the class.
Essay Prompt

Directions: Write a two to three page essay that answers the following questions.

If someone were to take a tour of your home and view some of your possessions, what do you think they would learn about you? What stories would you want told about yourself? What objects would be most important for visitors to see on a tour of your home? Compare aspects of your tour to a tour of the Welty House. How would your tour be similar? How would it be different?
Activity 4: Create Your Own Timeline Teacher’s Guide

Objectives:
Students will create a timeline of their own life, picking important events they think most define who they are.

Materials: long strips of paper, colored pencils, markers, pens, tape, Eudora Welty Timeline handout

Procedure:
1. Distribute the paper strips to each student.
2. If you are able, pass out or have on display the Eudora Welty Timeline handout as a reference for this activity.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, have students brainstorm and come up with 10-12 events in their lives that help to define them. These can be milestones such as date of birth, first day of school, times they've moved, meeting a best friend, the birth of a new family member, athletic achievements, academic related awards, a memorable field trip, times they've traveled, etc.
4. Have students write their events on the strip of paper.
5. Have students illustrate their timelines with their own drawings or by adding photographs that relate to each event.
6. If time allows, have students share their timelines with the class.
7. Display their work in the classroom if you are able.
April 13, 1909
Eudora Welty is born in Jackson, MS at 741 N. Congress Street to Chestina and Christian Welty.

1925
Graduates from Jackson's Central High School and moves into the house at 1119 Pinehurst.

1936
Publishes her first stories, “Death of a Traveling Salesman” and “Magic” in Manuscript magazine.

1940
Diarmuid Russell becomes Welty’s literary agent.

1949-50
Travels through Europe on a Guggenheim Fellowship.
1971
Welty’s book of photographs, One Time, One Place, is published and she is elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

1973
The Optimist’s Daughter receives the Pulitzer Prize.

1986
Welty makes the decision to bequeath her home at 1119 Pinehurst to the Mississippi Archives and History.

1998
The Library of America publishes two volumes of Welty’s fiction and non-fiction, making her the only living writer whose works have become part of this distinguished series.

2001
Welty dies at the age of ninety-two on July 23.
Additional Resources for the Classroom

*The following FREE resources are available on the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) website.*

**Traveling Exhibits**
Two Welty-themed traveling exhibits are available on loan from MDAH.
- *Welty* juxtaposes Welty’s 1930s-era photographs with excerpts from her writing to show the relationship between the two.
- *Eudora Welty: Other Places*, presents photographs taken by Welty in New Orleans and New York City from 1936 to 1939.

For more information on how to host a traveling exhibit at your school, visit [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/traveling-exhibits/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/traveling-exhibits/) or call the outreach programs coordinator at 601-576-6997.

**Lesson Plans and Teaching Units**
MDAH has lesson plans and teaching units for K–12 teachers. All units and plans are based on the Mississippi Department of Education Frameworks and the National Curriculum Standards. These free, downloadable PDFs are available at [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/)

**Write Like Welty**

**Upcoming Welty Events**
Don’t forget to keep up to date with the special events happening at the Eudora Welty House and Garden!
- Visit our website at [http://www.eudorawelty.org](http://www.eudorawelty.org)
- Follow us on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/eudoraweltyhouse/](https://www.facebook.com/eudoraweltyhouse/)
- View the event calendar at [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/category/events-category/](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/category/events-category/)

**Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**
The Eudora Welty House and Garden coordinates the annual Scholastic Writing Awards in Mississippi. Students grades 7–12 from public, private, or home schools submit original writing in ten categories for the chance to be recognized on the state and national level. For more information visit [www.artandwriting.org](http://www.artandwriting.org).