Who´s Your Favorite Author?

Description:

You love reading his/her books...he/she always seems to write about topics or feelings that you want to read about. Don't you ever wonder what these writers are about? How their lives influenced their writing? This is your chance to research an author and create a scrapbook about that person.

Goals & Objectives:

Students will learn to use the Twayne Author Database and the Discovering Collection Database.

Students will learn at least 15 new facts about the author they are researching.

Students will create a scrapbook about their author.

Students will orally present their scrapbook to their classmates.

Motivational Objectives:

Students will want to read at least one book written by the author they are researching.

Students will feel more confident about giving oral presentations.
Materials & Sources:
The Twayne Author Series-Twayne World Database, English and US Authors: Search full text of 200 frequently used books for a total of 600 individual full-text titles.

The Discovering Collection Author Database is a Gale Infotrack database used for biographies, multimedia and timelines - full text titles.

Over 200 assorted biographies and autobiographies from a select group of authors pertaining to 7th grade reading level.

Procedures:

Day One: LMS and 7th grade English teachers will present the unit to students. They will distribute all supporting worksheets and handouts pertaining to work unit and answer any questions students might have about the upcoming project. They will also have students pick an author to research from a pre-selected list of authors. Students will have the remaining part of the period to peruse the biographies available on their author.

Day Two: LMS will take 20 minutes out of the 40 minute period to review note-taking skills with students. For the second half of the period, students will begin to read from their print sources and jot down important facts about their author.

Day Three: Students will have the entire period to work on their print sources.

Day Four: LMS will introduce students to both databases: Twaynes and Discovering Collection. Students will be given remote access codes to use at home as well as on-site codes. Teachers will help students get accustomed to the databases where needed.

Day Five: Students will have the entire period to use the databases and collect their research.

Day Six: Seventh grade students had an earlier assignment to create both sides of a fictional interview in English class. English teacher will have students recall what should be included in creating an interview (one of the pages to be included in the scrapbook).

Day Seven through Ten: Students will work on their scrapbooks and be given help and guidance from teachers as needed.

Days Eleven through Fifteen: Students will orally present their scrapbooks to the class.
Assessment:
Students will be asked to evaluate the project as part of their oral presentation: what did they like about it, what didn't they like. What did they learn? Students will also be charged with asking the presenters questions about their author after each presentation. Also, a rubric will be used.

Collaborators:

Jane McCauliffe, English Teacher at Granville Jr/Sr High and Laura LaPan, English Teacher at Granville Jr/Sr High in Granville, New York

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY UNIT
LIBRARY/7ᵗʰ GRADE ENGLISH
RUBRICK

Name _____

Title Page (10 pts)   **Bibliography (10 pts)**   **Presentation (30 pts)**

_____ Name   _____ Book source   _____ Identified author quickly

_____ Author's name   _____ Internet source   _____ Showed work

_____ Date   _____ Spoke clearly

_____ Neat   _____ Spoke knowledgably

_____ Picture   _____ Maintained control

_____ Able to answer ?s on the spot

Choose 3 (10 pts each)

_____ Award or Honor   _____ Letter of Recommendation

_____ Originality of award   _____ Relates to author personally

_____ Evidence it was deserved   _____ Qualifications mentioned

_____ Creative form   _____ Mechanics of the letter

_____ Neatness (1 pt)   _____ Neatness (1 pt)

_____ Newspaper Article   _____ Pictures

_____ Headline of one event   _____ One page of pictures w/captions

_____ Article format   _____ Captions have to do with life

_____ Relevance as news   _____ Correspond to different events

_____ Neatness (1 pt)   _____ Neatness (1pt)

_____ Interview

    _____ 10 questions with answers

    _____ Questions deal with writing

    _____ The answers are well developed and include factual information

    _____ Neatness (1 pt)

Choose 2 (10 pts each)

_____ Report Card   _____ Collage

    _____ Gives grades w/supporting info   _____ At least 10 words

    _____ Knowledge of author   _____ Based on knowledge of author

_____ Epitaph   _____ Family Page

    _____ Uses format   _____ Identifies immediate family info

    _____ Contributes to character of author   _____ Constructs meaningful insight
                                                  to author

_____ Business Card

    _____ Format

    _____ Identifies a meaningful career path for author other than author

Scrapbook Project
Letter of Recommendation
(Required Page)

Follow the following format when writing the letter of recommendation:

Begin with: To Whom It May Concern:

Paragraph #1
- ❖ Introduce your person.
- ❖ Explain what you are recommending him/her for (a job, an award, a position on a committee, etc. This can be completely made up).
- ❖ In one sentence, list the reasons why you think this person should be considered.

Paragraph #2
- ❖ In this paragraph, explain one characteristic of this person and why this quality makes him/her a good candidate.
- ❖ Give specific examples.

Paragraph #3
- ❖ Discuss quality #2. Follow the same guidelines you did in paragraph #1.

Paragraph #4
- ❖ Discuss quality #3. Follow the same guidelines you did in paragraph #1 and #2.

Paragraph #5
- ❖ Summarize your points.

Author Biography
Scrapbook Project
English 7/Library Skills

Directions:
- ❖ You are to create a scrapbook of at least five (5) pages depicting the life of the author you've read about.
- ❖ You must choose **at least** three (3) page choices from Group A and two (2) page choices from Group B
- ❖ The maximum number of pages is endless!!
- ❖ You are to use **at least** two (2) sources for your bibliography page: one (1) electronic source (Twaynes) and one (1) print source.

Pages: **All scrapbooks must include:**

Title Page
-   Your name
-   The name of your person
-   The date
-   Colorful/neat
-   A picture of some kind

Bibliography Page
-   Your electronic citation for Twaynes
-   Your print source citation

Group A   Three (3) choices out of this group

- ❖ Award or Honor –At least one page of certificates or ribbons the person may have received.

- ❖ Letter of Recommendation – Recommend the person for a specific job or organization. This needs to be typed!

- ❖ Newspaper Article – Write a newspaper article about an important event in the person's life. Don't forget the catchy title!

❖ Pictures – Include at least one page of pictures with captions. If no pictures are available, draw or create a picture of what you think your person looks(ed) like. Check the Internet and your book for pictures.

❖ Interview – Write a short interview asking the person about a specific experience in his/her life. You should make up the questions and the answers.

Group B   Two (2) choices out of this group

❖ Report Card – Create a report card that may represent your person's academic achievement.

❖ Collage – Create a collage of words that would represent your person's personality and accomplishments.

❖ Epitaph – Create an epitaph for the person's grave. What would it say?

❖ Family Page – Create a page dedicated to the person's family. This could include such things as a family tree, pictures, collage, etc.

❖ Business Card – Design a business card for the person you've read about. This should be typed!