The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Pre-Reading Project

INTRODUCTION

In order to enhance our reading experience of Mark Twain’s novel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, you first need to uncover pertinent background information about the life and times of life on the Mississippi prior to the Civil War. Therefore, you and your group members will become “experts” about a specific topic related to the novel and will share your newfound knowledge with the class!

We will spend one and a half days in the Media Center, where you will complete research on your topic. Once you have your information, you will need to make a video to present this information to the class in an interesting, engaging way.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESENTATION:

1. Research information about your assigned topic and the starter questions.

2. Your presentation should include at least 10 interesting and relevant facts about your topic! Turn in a typed sheet with the facts before your presentation.

3. Keep track of your sources. Maintain a list of the sources you use to gather your research. This list must be turned in when you present to the class.

4. Plan how you are going to teach the class this information. (The class will be taking notes on your presentation.) The presentation should be approximately 5-8 minutes. Possible video ideas: skits, talk show, TV show parody, rap, or any other creative way to present the information to the class without just stating the facts.

5. Each group is responsible for creating three quiz questions for the class about your topic along with a note-taking sheet for the class and turning them in at the time of your presentation. The class will be taking notes on each presentation and taking a quiz over all topics at the end of the activity. Questions can be multiple choice or short answer.

6. Each group member is responsible for playing an active role in the entire project.

THIS PROJECT IS DUE ON FEBRUARY 8th, 2011
GROUP TOPICS

Group #1
Your topic is the following: Mark Twain
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:
1. Provide biographical information about the author.
2. How old was Mark Twain when he began writing professionally? What kind of writing did he do over the course of his life?
3. What did his fans and his critics say about him and his books?
4. What were his political views?

Group #2
Your topic is the following: Controversy surrounding *Huck Finn* and censorship
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:
1. Why is *Huck Finn* a banned book in many schools?
2. What are arguments for and against the teaching of the novel?
3. How are students affected by the use of “the ‘N’ word”? Does the use of the word in a classic piece of literature affect student usage of the word outside of the classroom?

Group #3
Your topic is the following: Geography and Life on the River
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:
1. What is the geographical picture of the journey Huck and Jim take on the Mississippi River from St. Peters burg (Hannibal, Missouri) to Northern Alabama?
2. What was life like for people living on the river in the 1800s?
3. Provide a map of the region.

Group #4
Your topic is the following: Slavery and Abolitionists
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:
1. What was daily life like for a slave?
2. Who were slave holders? What was life like for them?
3. What is an abolitionist?
Group #5

Your topic is the following: Time Line
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:

1. Research the time period of the novel (approximately 1835-1850s). What was happening in this region at this time?
2. What events were happening in the United States?
3. What events were happening globally?

Group #6

Your topic is the following: Slave Laws
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:

1. What were the specific laws regarding slavery from the 1600s to the end of the Civil War?
2. What were the consequences for being a slave fugitive?
3. What were the consequences for aiding slave fugitives?

Group #7

Your topic is the following: Smallpox
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:

1. What is smallpox?
2. How did smallpox affect the lives of people in the 19th century?
3. What vaccinations were available? What is a “pest house”?
Group #8

Your topic is the following: Jim Crow Laws
Choose what you think is the most important and interesting information about your topic to present to the class. In addition, your presentation must include the following:

1. What were the specific laws that were implemented in the south?
2. What challenges did African Americans face under these laws?
3. Were African Americans able to overcome these obstacles? How?
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn Pre-Reading Presentation Rubric

Group Members:

Topic:

Video Presentation: _______/45pts.

_____ All members speak and use effective presentation techniques (eye contact, appropriate volume, correct pronunciation, etc.)

_____ Packet material has been covered thoroughly

_____ Video is detailed, creative, neat, and effective

Quiz Questions and Note-Taking Worksheet _______/15

_____ Students provide teacher with three multiple choice or short answer quiz questions about their topic that have been discussed during their presentation.

_____ The student note-taking worksheet covers the material in the packet and is easy to follow during the presentation.

_____ The student note-taking worksheet is neat and leaves spaces for students to easily fill in key information from the presentation.

Group Total _______/60 pts.