

Jazmin Hernandez
English 112B
4 December 2012
Unit of Study

History; the Struggles of a Multi-Culturally Diverse People

The genre of history has always fascinated me. It is always an adventure to incorporate different subjects into reading to help keep both students and readers interested in participating. Both History and English were my favorite subjects in school. However, it wasn't until college that History became more than just about the Industrial Revolution and the Civil War. The tedious aspect about History is memorizing the different dates and all the elements that come with those specific events. In the genre of History however, it is easy to connect with such events by looking through the mind of the characters created or voiced.

The canonical work that this unit of study is focused around is *Night* by Elie Wiesel. This piece explores the struggles and harsh reality of the Holocaust through the perspective of the author. This is the story of Elie Wiesel when he was being held at Aushwitz, a concentration camp. Wiesel tells of the horrors and daily struggles he had to endure. This is the most dramatic work that would get students to realize how far hate can really go. It also shares the personal experiences of a young boy which makes it easily relatable. It is important for students to understand that people have always struggled and suffered throughout History which is why I would launch the unit by asking students to write about a personal struggle they've encountered. Other canonical and non-canonical books could be introduced throughout the unit and could be paired with fun activities and films to keep the students interested.

The holocaust is a theme that allows students to see how stereotyping and hate can lead to something extreme. In high school and middle school students are constantly judging one

another and learn to show hate for certain people. By showing them these types of novels and works, they will be able to see how much pain the characters are in.

Of course the Holocaust is not the only event that has left people broken; many events occurred around the world that had a deep impact on different cultures, races, etcetera. There are different books for the various events that occurred: *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Witness*, *The Color Purple*, and various others that include the works of Sherman Alexie and topics about the Spanish War, Genocide, the Feminist Movement and so much more.

It is important that students be able to incorporate history with English so that they have a better understanding as to how we got to where we are and to understand that even if we don't want it to, history tries to repeat itself.

Events that have happened in History are what have made us the country and people we are today. This is important and hits the huge topic of identity and having students dig deeper into their familiar history can help them find out who they are. The genre of history can be used to help students find their identity and help them realize what different people went through throughout the different times in history. The characters in both historical fiction and non-fiction are relatable characters and will open the student's eyes to the history of people around the world. The true conclusion of this unit would be having students realize how small their problems are compared to those who have lived in the past.

For this unit, a Book Talk could easily be implemented because there are so many books available that have to do with this genre. This would allow students to read a book on their own and present their feedback to the class. The class would then be able to take notes on their own and incorporate discussions from the readings. Before reading the canonical book, I would have all the students flip through the pages and skim read. They would then pick out words that are

unknown to them. The class would spend about a class period on finding the definitions of these words. After the class has completed their “dictionary” we would play a game called “Whack a Word”. Essentially this game requires that that whiteboard be fixed as an oversized checkerboard. Within the boxes, there would be the new words the students had just finished defining. Two students would come up to the board with a pool noodle; the teacher says a definition and the students must compete in finding the corresponding word and whack it once they find it. This exercise can be done also by putting the definitions on the board and simply saying the word.

Both activities are interactive and keep the students interested. I would also, if permitted, try to take my students to a museum that has to do with the piece we are studying in class.

Although many people consider history to be a mundane topic, by pairing it with canonical pieces, films and interactive activities, it will expand the student’s knowledge about both fictional characters and non-fictional events. It also helps students relate to the history of their culture and background which is key to understanding identity and the different people of this country.



Unit of Study: Historical Genre

The Struggles of a Multi-Culturally Diverse Country

Jazmin Hernandez
English 112B
4 December 2012

Struggling Throughout History

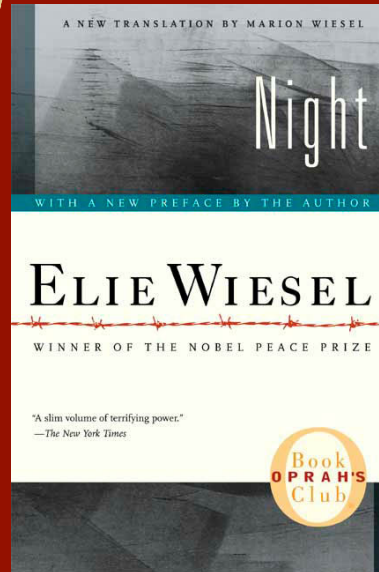
It is important for students to realize that many people struggled and suffered throughout History. Our country is made up of a multi-culturally diverse people and it is important to understand the history of our citizens.

History can and usually always repeats itself. Hate, Prejudice and Greed are major themes throughout history.

By reading historical fiction and non-fiction, students will be exposed to events and characters that they will be able to relate to.

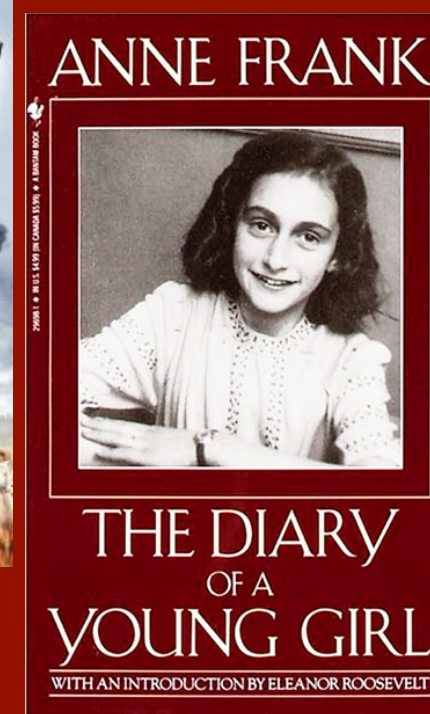
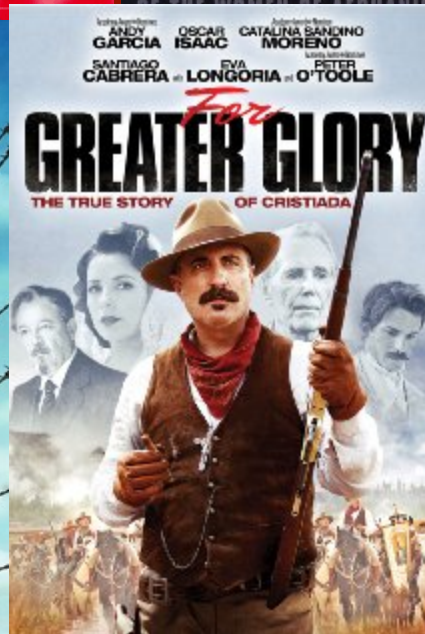
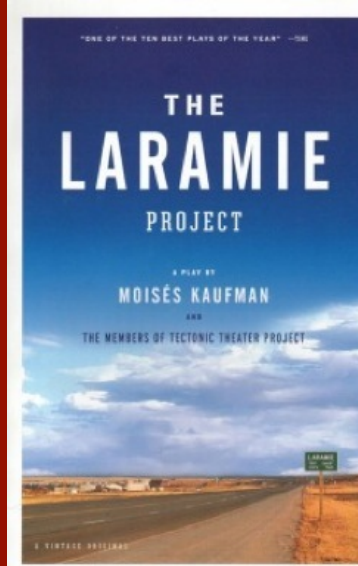
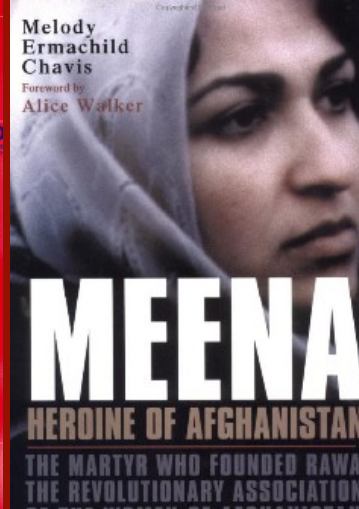
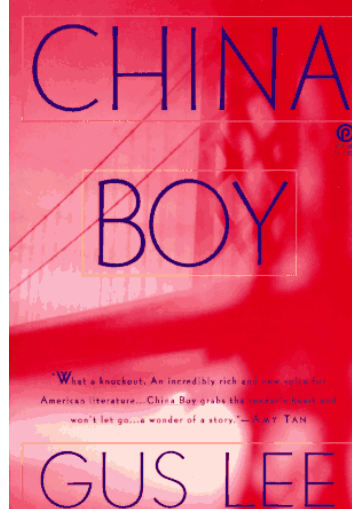
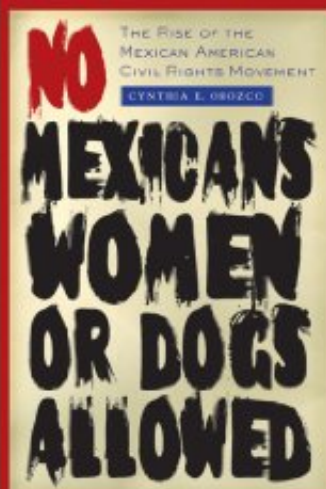
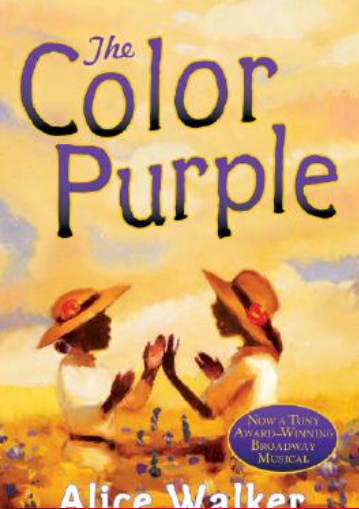
Our goal is to open our student's eyes and make them realize that even the smallest act of bigotry can spiral into a mess of chaotic events.

Canonical Text to Work Around: *Night* by Elie Wiesel



This work will help students see just how far hate can go.

Pair with other works/films/plays/etc...



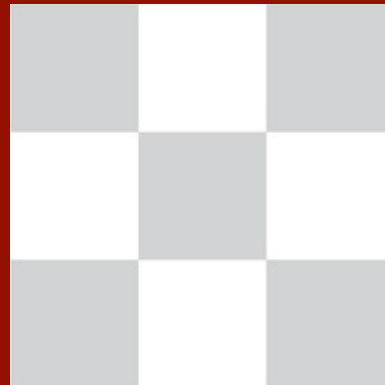
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



Game that involves pool noodles and lots of fun! (Builds Vocabulary)



+



=



CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES; CONT'D...

☺ Book Talk! ☺

What better way to implement something we learned in English 112B?

Students will be able to read a book of their choice and be able to present it to the class (Builds confidence in speaking in front of people and allows students to be interested in non-canonical works).

**** Could also try and take students to a museum or Play**



The End

Thank You For Listening to my
Presentation