

Historical Fiction Book Project – Mobile

Due: Friday, February 5, 2010

Using your historical fiction book as a guide, you will be creating a mobile as your project. You may have your mobile items hanging off of a hanger, or you may employ any other sort of method for suspending the pieces of your project (pieces of wood, a prop related to your story and more). If you are not exactly sure what a mobile is, or could be, please make sure to ask! ☺

Your mobile must contain the following items:

Item #1 – The book's title and author, as well as your name

Item #2 – A summary of the book's plot

Item #3 – A description of the time/place in history where the book takes place on one side, and a drawing (made by you) on the other side (*For example, if your book takes place in Germany, during World War II, describe what it was like to live there at that time: the war itself, the town life, the people, the food situation, and other significant details*)

Item #4 – A description of the main character on one side (name, physical characteristics, personality, what kind of person he/she is, and more) and a drawing (by you) of the main character on the other side

Item #5 – Five vocabulary words (and their definitions) that you found during the reading that you hadn't known before. If there aren't any new words, pick 5 words that are interesting or related to the time in history that is covered by your book.

Item #6 – Your opinion on what it would be like to live in the time/place featured in your book. Would you like it? Would you not like it? Make sure to support your position with at least 2 examples from the book (specific things that would make your life in this time/place a positive or negative experience).

- None of these items should be as short as one or two sentences. I expect you to write more.
- You may handwrite or type the information on each piece of the mobile. Do whichever one you feel more comfortable with. If you handwrite, however, make sure you are very neat and write in final draft form (that means *no pencil*).
- Remember to check for mistakes ahead of time, before you make your final version.
- Be as creative and neat as possible!

What is Historical Fiction?

- I have been asked what exactly constitutes historical fiction. Here is what I would like to use as the definition, at least as it pertains to this project. I consider historical fiction to be any work of fiction in which the author places the plot at some not-so-recent point in the past. It could be as far back as the Middle Ages or the Revolutionary or Civil Wars, and as recent as the Holocaust, the Civil Rights Era, or the Vietnam War. While the time in history in which the book takes place doesn't necessarily have to be centered on a specific historical event (such as a war), the period of time itself does need to be integral to the story.
- Books that were written long ago as present-day stories, but are now "historical," I would like not to be used for this project. I find that books that authors purposely intend to be set back in time have more of a direct focus on what it was like and what it meant to be living at that particular time. Thus, for this project, I feel that that perspective is important.
- If you are struggling to find a work of historical fiction, please let me know. Here are a few suggestions:
 - *A Long Way From Chicago* and its sequel *A Year Down Yonder* by Richard Peck (1930's)...and, really, almost any book by Richard Peck
 - *Babe & Me*, *Jackie & Me*, *Mickey & Me* or *Honus & Me* – all by Dan Gutman (early-to-mid 20th Century)
 - Any of the *Dear America* or *My Name Is America* series books (range from colonial times (maybe earlier) to middle 20th Century)
 - *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry (Holocaust)
 - *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen (Holocaust)
 - I have three whole shelves of Historical Fiction in the room, and there's plenty of great stuff in the library.

Reminder: Any book you choose must be at 100 pages long and has to be a book you haven't read before (or from a series you haven't read before)! 😊

Historical Fiction Project

Mobile Evaluation

The chart below shows how I evaluated your historical fiction mobile project. All of the items below are related to the instructions you were being given with the project. Make sure you talk to me if you have any questions.

ITEM #1 – BOOK’S TITLE & AUTHOR AND YOUR NAME	
ITEM #2 – SUMMARY OF THE BOOK’S PLOT	
ITEM # 3 – DESCRIPTION OF HISTORICAL TIME/PLACE ON ONE SIDE, DRAWING ON THE OTHER SIDE	
ITEM # 4 – MAIN CHARACTER DESCRIPTION, WITH DRAWING OF CHARACTER ON OTHER SIDE	
ITEM # 5 – 5 VOCABULARY WORDS AND THEIR DEFINITIONS	
ITEM # 6 – OPINION ON WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO LIVE IN THAT HISTORICAL TIME/PLACE	
THE PROJECT IS BRIGHT, CREATIVE, COLORFUL AND NEAT.	
I FOLLOWED THE DIRECTIONS FOR THE PROJECT. THERE ARE NO SPELLING, GRAMMAR, OR PUNCTUATION MISTAKES.	

MR. WARTIK’S COMMENTS: