WebQuest Description: Bud Not Buddy, written by Christopher Paul Curtis, is a story about a boy growing up during the Great Depression. In 2008, America began to hear rumors of Recession which can lead to a Depression. This webquest will compare and contrast the Great Depression of the 1930's and the Recession of 2008?

Grade Level: 3-5
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: depression recession jazz fosterhomes
Published On: 2009-01-17 15:04:51
Last Modified: 2009-01-17 11:03:03
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=13878

Introduction

Bud Not Buddy is a 2000 Newbery Award winning book written by Christopher Paul Curtis. In his book, he showed us something about what life was like during the Great Depression. We are going to compare and contrast life during the Great Depression with the current Recession of our era.

Tasks

You are a reporter for a major newspaper network. You and three of your co-workers are suddenly transported back in time to the Great Depression. Once you get over your shock of traveling in time, you all decide to make the best of the situation and get the scoop on the Great Depression and see if it has any comparisons to the Recession that America is in. You believe that once you discover the way back to 2009 you will have a great front page story. You will: Research a topic from the 1930’s. Write a front page cover story complete with headline and appropriate picture. Work with your fellow partners to layout, name, and print the newspaper.

Process

Within your assigned group: 1. Decide which reporter will cover which story. All four topics must be covered. The topics are: Current Events: Bud finds that life is hard during the Great Depression. Describe what the Great Depression was and how it affected people in the United States. Include information about "Hoovervilles", the "towns" that Bud saw during the story. Compare and contrast the Great Depression to the our Recession. Include an appropriate photo from the Great Depression.-Business News: Bud hears about the possibility of labor strikes during the story. Give some general information about labor strikes in the 1930's as well as specific information about strikes in Flint Michigan. Compare and contrast labor strikes to unemployment and people being laid-off during our Recession. Include an appropriate photo.-Entertainment-Jazz/Swing Music: Bud hears a lot about jazz music when he stays with the Calloways Band. Write an article about jazz music (often called swing) in the 1930's. Choose a famous musician from the 1930's and include some information about his/her music and life. Include a picture of the musician. Compare and contrast jazz with hip-hop and rap.-Technology: The people in the 1930's used different technology than we do today. For instance, in Bud, Not Buddy, Lefty Lewis sends telegrams to let Herman Calloway know that Bud is safe. Compare and contrast the technology of the 1930's with the technology that we have available today. Include a photo. 2. The resources sections has a list of several websites for your topic. Look at the websites and take notes. 3. Using the computer, write an article at least 200 words long. You will need an eyecatching headline and don't forget to include your byline. Each picture will need a caption. 4. Working with your group create a newspaper that mimics a real newspaper. Include information about what life was like during the Great Depression. In 2008, America began to hear rumors of Recession which can lead to a Depression. This webquest will compare and contrast the Great Depression of the 1930's and the Recession of 2008.

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By reading Bud, Not Buddy and writing about different events and trends from the 1930's much can be learned about a fascinating time period from America's past. To learn more about the 1930's, or about the book, Bud, Not Buddy, look at some of the following websites:

- An interview with Christopher Paul Curtis: http://www.powells.com/authors/curtis.html
- Click on Famous Speeches to hear a clip of FDR's Inaugural Address about the Great Depression: http://www.history.com/video.do?name=elections&bcpid=1745093705&bclid=5982118001&bctid=6146970001
- Tales of the African American experience in riding the rails and discover more about a dialogue on the African American experience during the Great Depression: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rails/sfeature/obstacles.html
- Lyrics to popular songs of the depression: http://fortunecity.com/tinpan/parton/2/depress.html#top

Focus: This webquest focus is on The Great Depression of 1930 and the present Recession that we are facing in this era using the novel Bud, Not Buddy written by Christopher Paul Curtis. Students will use the internet to gather information on the Great Depression and the current Recession. Students will compare and contrast the information and conclude their research with the creation of a newspaper. The hidden objective to this activity is students making world to text and self to text connections.
technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information.* Students use technology tools to process data and report results.* Students evaluate and select new information resources and technological innovations based on appropriateness to specific tasks.

Technology Standard 6: Problem-Solving* While working collaboratively with one or more peers, students will determine the appropriate technology to help achieve a shared goal.

Credits: The resources and web links included on this website are external websites and I would like to thank them for creating such useful WebPages.

Standards

Credits

Other