The Lady or the Tiger

WebQuest Description: The Lady or the Tiger by Frank Stockton is a short story with twists that sets minds to think critically.

Grade Level: 6-8
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Lady, Tiger, Frank Stockton, Semi-barbaric, Door
Published On: 2013-03-11 07:28:11
Last Modified: 2013-03-07 03:48:25
WebQuest URL: http://zunal.com/webquest.php?w=186611

Introduction

Recently, a group of archaeologists dug the ruins of an arena. They found two identical doors at the center of it. They strongly believed that what they've just dug are the ruins of the arena of a semi-barbaric king. Some artifacts were also discovered proving that the kingdom had used this arena for judgment purposes. This points out to a strong possibility that Frank Stockton's story "The Lady or the Tiger" really happened. Now, a rich man became interested in knowing the real happening behind the mysterious doors of that arena. You are being hired as a detective to find out what really happened in the story. With the help of the archaeologists, and the rich man's very generous financial assistance, you will have to investigate carefully the truth behind the mysterious missing record of history. Good luck on your investigation detective!

Tasks

You are asked to work for a rich man interested in finding out about the historical event as written by Frank Stockton, as a detective. Your job is to search for evidences and trace back the real happening behind the mysterious ruins of the arena. You are to create some form a presentation (PowerPoint, video proof, video presentation with some type of imagery, etc.) to demonstrate your proof about your deduction. After your deduction is created, you are asked to show your client what you have found out. After you present your findings, you will turn your explanation into a narrative essay. You may work individually or with a partner.

Process


STEP TWO: Using your knowledge from the text, prepare your investigation. You will provide sufficient evidence from the text to support your deductions. You may present your case in whatever way will get your points across effectively. You should be sure to defend your case by providing sufficient evidence of what really happened in the story during the trial of the young man. What came out of the door? Was it the lady or the tiger? STEP THREE: Again, while using knowledge from the text and your notes, prepare your evidences. Everybody is expecting you to come up with sufficient and reliable evidences to prove your deduction to be correct. Your employer will be asking you questions. He needs concrete evidences along with wise and definite descriptions of your investigation. This is a very important job. Your reputation as a detective is at stake. STEP FOUR: Your final task will be to provide your employer with a narrative report of your investigation. You will supply him with facts in a 2 - 3 page descriptive essay. You are provided with techniques and instructions on how to properly write a descriptive essay.

Evaluation

STEP FIVE: Have fun and be creative!
Congratulations for a job well done! You've worked hard. Your employer is satisfied with your report and he's willing to recommend you to work for bigger projects. The spectators were even amazed by how well you brought out these facts from your investigation. You've just challenged Frank Stockton with your wit. Now that you've brought out to the world the mystery behind the doors of that old arena, you are now ready for greater tasks as a detective. Excellent work!

This web quest is about the story Lady or the Tiger written by Frank Stockton. It is a kind of story that does not have an ending. Instead of just instructing the students to create an ending for the story, a more interactive activity is made. It aims to foster creativity and critical thinking among students. The activity is good for 2-3 days.

**Standards**

**Credits**
- http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/685/03/
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4z-a8I99g
- Other

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<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong> (Organization)</td>
<td>There is no clear introduction of the main topic or structure of the paper. No lead is used.</td>
<td>The introduction states the main topic, but does not adequately preview the structure of the paper nor is it particularly inviting to the reader. A lead is used but is not particularly attractive to the reader or does not relate to the topic.</td>
<td>The introduction clearly states the main topic and previews the structure of the paper, but is not particularly inviting to the reader. A well-written lead is used to attract the reader’s attention.</td>
<td>The introduction is inviting, states the main topic, previews the structure of the paper, and includes a well-written, clever lead that is related to the essay’s topic which attracts the reader’s attention.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Focus on Topic</strong> (Content)</td>
<td>The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information. Topic sentences appear in few or none of the paragraphs.</td>
<td>Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information. Topic sentences are used in most paragraphs.</td>
<td>Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general. Topic sentences are used in each paragraph.</td>
<td>There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information. Well-written topic sentences are used in each 5-7 sentence paragraph.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Word Choice</strong></td>
<td>Writer uses a limited vocabulary that does not communicate strongly or capture the reader’s interest. Jargon or cliches may be present and detract from the meaning.</td>
<td>Writer uses words that communicate clearly, but the writing lacks variety, punch or flair.</td>
<td>Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader's mind, but occasionally the words are used inaccurately or seem overdone.</td>
<td>Writer uses vivid words and phrases that linger or draw pictures in the reader’s mind, and the choice and placement of the words seems accurate, natural and not forced.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion</strong> (Organization)</td>
<td>There is no clear conclusion, the paper just ends.</td>
<td>The conclusion is recognizable, but does not tie up several loose ends.</td>
<td>The conclusion is recognizable and ties up almost all the loose ends.</td>
<td>The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader with a feeling that he/she understands the writer’s point of view.</td>
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**Total Score**