Of Mice and Men: Citing examples from the Text

WebQuest Description: In order to analyze Of Mice and Men, it is important to use cited examples from the text. Like a detective, students must use cited examples as supporting evidence when analyzing any text.

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
Keywords: Of Mice and Men, Jordan Sharps, 10th grade English, themes, symbols
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Introduction

Big Announcement Wanted: Individuals interested in contributing to a film adaptation of John Steinbeck's Of Mice and Men. Description: The goal for this film adaptation is to stay true to the original story. Our studio wants to bring Of Mice and Men to the big screen, but we need experts on the novel’s plot and characters before we can write an acceptable script. Also, our actors want to know more about the characters in order to properly portray them. Sadly, we cannot afford to hire experts for the full extent of filming; our budget is not big enough to handle another full-time employee. Instead, we want to schedule a few meetings where you will give presentations about the novel’s plot and characters. You will be presenting to the film’s director and producer (me, of course). I would also like a copy of your presentation to show to my actors. The studio will pay you for the consultation, which does fortunately fit within the budget. If the film is a success, you will also receive royalties (jargon for a share of the film's profits) for helping create the film!

Tasks

Your mission is to create a presentation about the literary elements in Of Mice and Men. The presentation should make use of visual aids and multiple media, which means forms of video and audio presentation. For the assignment, you will become an expert on the novel Of Mice and Men by reading and analyzing the literary elements within the text. With the aid of other experts on the novel, you will create a presentation about the novel’s plot, themes, motifs, symbolism, and characters. The presentation can be created using various tools: PowerPoint, Prezi, Screenr, and any other tools that you find and use. Notice that each of these tools can be used together to make your presentation, so present your expert knowledge of the literary elements of this novel through various forms of media. Since you will be working in groups, each member should become an expert in a specific literary aspect of the novel. One group member could be the expert consultant for theme, and another member may focus on symbolism or characterization. As each member reads the novel and analyzes the literary elements, he or she should focus on a specific literary element. After reading and analyzing the novel, your group will put together a presentation that displays your analysis. The final product should come in the form of a video presentation, PowerPoint, or other visual presentation using online media. It is important that your presentation present your groups analysis of the novel. Also, the format of the presentation is something that your group can choose. The format could range from an online video to a PowerPoint presentation with the purpose of teaching an audience about the novel and its literary elements. Keep in mind: When making your presentation, imagine that the people viewing it have no knowledge of the novel. You will have analyzed the novel’s literary elements; however, your audience will want some textual evidence to understand your analysis. It is necessary to provide citations for any evidence from the novel and any other information about the novel from outside sources (print, web, etc.).

Process

Your assignment is broken into three phases: Phase 1: Individually... 1. You will read Of Mice and Men. I have given a link to a free online version of the novel, so you can read Of Mice and Men using this link. 2. You will need to understand the process of proper MLA citations. I will have a link to the OWL Purdue website listed below, and I will have a PowerPoint presentation about basic MLA citation for you to view as well.  Phase 2: In groups of three... 1. Choose a specific literary element to analyze in Of Mice and Men. a. I will have a link to a site that explains literary elements. Your group can view this link and decide which element to present. 2. Find sources to support your analysis of the selected literary element in the novel. 3. As a final note, your group must think about and discuss how your selected literary element influences Of Mice and Men. For example, the literary element of characterization can influence how we compare or contrast characters or how we read the relationships formed between characters in the novel. It is important that your group consider these questions: What is the literary element that we are analyzing? How does this literary element influence our reading of the novel? How did the author use this literary element? What was the author's intended goal?  Phase 3: As a group... 1. Create a presentation for your literary element. a. Your presentation will require the use of MLA citation and in-text citation to be used for every quote or idea taken from a researched source about the novel or from the novel itself. b. I have provided various links to tools that you can use for your presentation. Be sure to explore all tools that I have listed below to pick the best tool for you. c. As a final note, I am only interested in the your ability to present your analysis of the literary element in an organized way. The answers that your group generate for the questions in Phase 2 should be main points in your presentation. Format is less important to me then content. As long as the presentation clearly displays the main points of your group analysis of a literary element, the tool that you use for the presentation will be irrelevant. In other words, pick the tool that you prefer.
The Common Core Standards for 9th and 10th Grade English Literature addressed are:

This WebQuest is designed for English 10th Grade Literature. The WebQuest is designed to help students analyze literature. Specifically, students analyze a specific literary element about Of Mice and Men through group presentations. It will take a week to a week and a half to complete in the classroom. Essentially, the teacher should monitor students progress by establishing 3 checkpoints to be completed every 3 to 4 class meetings. Checkpoint 1 should be reading the novel, understanding literary elements, and learning how to use MLA Citation. Checkpoint 1 is essential to the group assignment; Reading the text, understanding literary elements, and understanding how to use MLA citation are essential to completing this WebQuest. Be sure to Pre-assess and post assess students knowledge of the novel, literary elements, and MLA citation for checkpoint 1 as well. Checkpoint 2 would be forming groups and selecting topics for the presentation. Students should have research and analysis of the literary element they choose completed before working on checkpoint 3. The last checkpoint should be creating a presentation. This will be the summative assessment of students understanding of literary analysis and MLA citation.

Standards
This WebQuest is designed for English 10th Grade Literature.

The Common Core Standards for 9th and 10th Grade English Literature addressed are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category and Score</th>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Emerging</th>
<th>Mastery</th>
<th>Distinguished</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation’s Introduction and Conclusion</td>
<td>The introduction provides no clear indication of the literary element. Also, the conclusion provides no summary of the main points</td>
<td>The introduction mentions the literary element briefly without defining it. Also, the conclusion vaguely mentions a main point.</td>
<td>The introduction succinctly mentions the literary element and defines it. Also, the conclusion clearly mentions at least 3 main points</td>
<td>The introduction identifies, defines, and provides examples of the literary element. Also, the conclusion summarizes three main points clearly and succinctly.</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLA Citation and In-text citations</td>
<td>Presentation has no work cited page. Also, it has no in-text citations.</td>
<td>Presentation has a work cited page with 1 or 2 sources. Also, it has at least 1 or 2 in-text citations. The citations have some errors.</td>
<td>Presentation has a work cited page with at least 3 sources. Also, it has at least 3 or more in-text citations. The citations have little to no errors.</td>
<td>Presentation has a work cited page with at least 5 sources. Also, it has at least 5 or more in-text citations. The citations have no errors.</td>
<td>10 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding of Literary Element</td>
<td>Literary element is not defined at all. The presentation provides no examples of the literary element from the text.</td>
<td>Literary element is vaguely defined or incorrectly defined. The presentation provides one example of the literary element from the text.</td>
<td>Literary element is clearly defined little to no inaccuracies. The presentation provides three examples of the literary element from the text.</td>
<td>Literary element is clearly defined without any inaccuracies. The presentation provides five examples of the literary element from the text.</td>
<td>12 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Collaboration</td>
<td>The majority of group members fail to fill out a reflection. Collaboration cannot be assessed without proper reflection.</td>
<td>At least 2 group members fill out a reflection. At least 2 group member contribute to the overall presentation.</td>
<td>The majority of group members fill out a reflection. The majority of group members contribute to the overall presentation.</td>
<td>All group members fill out a reflection. All group members contribute to the overall presentation.</td>
<td>4 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Score</td>
<td>36 pts</td>
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Now that your group has researched a literary element and created a presentation based on this research, ask yourself three questions:1. What did you learn about Of Mice and Men from this presentation?2. What are some other literary elements in the novel that you would like to analyze?3. How do other authors use the literary element that you presented? Compare the use of literary elements in your favorite novel to Of Mice and Men. As you reflect on these questions, please feel free to record your thoughts using the online blogging to compare your interpretations of a novel with other students in your group.3. Now that you are not looking at: a. Length of Presentation b. Use of MLA citation

Conclusion

The WebQuest is designed to help students analyze literature. Specifically, students analyze a specific literary element about Of Mice and Men through group presentations. It will take a week to a week and a half to complete in the classroom. Essentially, the teacher should monitor students progress by establishing 3 checkpoints to be completed every 3 to 4 class meetings. Checkpoint 1 should be reading the novel, understanding literary elements, and learning how to use MLA Citation. Checkpoint 1 is essential to the group assignment; Reading the text, understanding literary elements, and understanding how to use MLA citation are essential to completing this WebQuest. Be sure to Pre-assess and post assess students knowledge of the novel, literary elements, and MLA citation for checkpoint 1 as well. Checkpoint 2 would be forming groups and selecting topics for the presentation. Students should have research and analysis of the literary element they choose completed before working on checkpoint 3. The last checkpoint should be creating a presentation. This will be the summative assessment of students understanding of literary analysis and MLA citation.
Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.

Credits

I would like to thank:

-Zunal, the online web site which provided the tool for creating my WebQuest.
-OnRead.com, an online site which provided the online version of the novel for free.
-Screenr, an online web site which provided a video recording tool for students to use when making their presentation.
-Prezi, an online web site which provided an alternative presentation tool for students to use when making their presentations.
-Blogger, Wordpress, and Edublog; three sites which provide similar blogging functions for students to use when analyzing literature through online journals.
-The OWL Purdue MLA Guide, an online site which provides an online guide to MLA citations using web and print sources.
-Dr. Mehdi, my Education 300 professor who taught me how to create a WebQuest.
-Microsoft Word and Clip Art; the tools I used to create the top image of every page within the WebQuest.

Other

If you would like to contact me with further questions:

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