

"The life of Samuel Johnson." - James Boswell

WebQuest Description: Twenty-two year old James Boswell a Scottish biographer first met fifty-two-year-old Samuel Johnson English writer in 1763. Boswell soon became great friends with Johnson their friendship lasted twenty-one years until the untimely death of Samuel. They both bonded through the craft of writing. Throughout much of there time together James took those years and dedicated them to write about Johnson's life. The biography was mostly based off of notes from which Boswell constructed when talking to Samuel about his life. Most biographers don't get the privilege to speak with the person they are writing about. So, Boswell capitalized on their friendship. He used Samuel as a muse to write one of the best literary biographies of his generation. This book still reaps the benefits of literary success. From one writer to the next I will give you a look at the written journey James and Samuel went through well creating their masterpiece.

Grade Level: 9-12

Curriculum: English / Language Arts

Keywords: Life of sam, Poet, Biographer, Biography

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Introduction

He had no settled plan of life, nor looked forward at all, but merely lived from day to day. Yet he read a great deal in a desultory manner, without any scheme of study, as chance threw books in his way, and inclination directed him through them. James Boswell, The Life of Samuel Johnson In order to obtain information about these literary geniuses, you should read some brief biographies about there lives and accomplishments. Please do feel free to jot down some notes.
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/johnson_samuel.shtml - Samuel Johnson: Brief Biography
<https://www.ourcivilisation.com/smartboard/shop/boswellj/about.htm> - James Boswell: Very Brief Biography

Tasks

Read this Journal Article about the Conversation (Q&A) with Samuel Johnson.
http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/a_conversation_with_the_late_great_lexicographer_samuel_johnson Proceed to produce a couple of questions that you would like for Samuel Johnson to answer. Write them down and answer them as you think Sam would.
Watch this video that depicts what "the life of Samuel Johnson" looked like.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMICUKzGzPg> Proceed to create your own book cover of what your own biography would look like.
Watch this video about Johnson's greatest accomplishment.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDOGu0iNwYM> If you want to watch this video about James Boswell
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q200M9XB8IA>

Process

Read the Brief Biographies of James and Sam's lives and accomplishments. Jot down some notes.
Read a Journal Article about a Q&A with Dr.Sam. Produce a couple questions that you would like to ask Samuel and answer these questions as he would.
Watch a video about the actual " Life of Samuel Johnson" book. Create your own book cover of your own biography.
Watch this video about Johnson's greatest accomplishment. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDOGu0iNwYM> If you want to watch this Documentary about James Boswell.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q200M9XB8IA> Part 1. In your words state why friendship is essential for the growth of a person's character. How has some of your own friendships shaped you as a person? Part 2. Write down some traits down that you think makes a successful biographer. Part 3. List some of your accomplishments and think to yourself what things do you wish to accomplish in the future.

Evaluation

Part 1. In your words state why friendship is essential for the growth of a person's character. How has some of your own friendships shaped you as a person? Part 2. Write down some traits down that you think makes a successful biographer. Part 3. List some of your accomplishments and think to yourself what things do you wish to accomplish in the future.

Category and Score					Score

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

Conclusion

James Boswell and Samuel Johnson were both literary brothers and best friends they have produced some of the most successful British Literature ever. So, as we further explore the depts of British Literature keep in mind that Literature takes time. It does not come easy but, with the help of someone and so hard work we can also be successful someday. So sit back and relax. Let the journey take you.

Teacher Page

This is designed to encourage more hands-on student involvement and self-direction. to work with a 4 or 5 day week. Evaluation can be done with online tools or a class rubric.Standards

Standards

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences are drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.2 Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text. CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.11-12.3 Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).

Credits

Credits Pearson Common Core Grade 12 British Literature YouTube Video Content Other Encourage students to explore and discuss with peers.

Other

Thank you! :)