A Thousand Splendid Suns

WebQuest Description: A webquest for students reading A Thousand Splendid Suns, with sites and ideas from "A Study Guide" by Jeanne M. McGlinn

Grade Level: 9-12
Curriculum: English / Language Arts
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Introduction

The purpose of this webquest is to gain a better understanding of the issues, conflicts, and historical information in A Thousand Splendid Suns. The websites offered deal with topics ranging from biographical information on the author, Khaled Hosseini, to statistics on abuse and the use of landmines in Afghanistan. Complete understanding of the text is crucial. These websites, gathered by Jeanne M. McGlinn, will give you a better understanding of the text. They offer much insight to the issues mentioned in the novel, and also show that these issues are real life problems, are still occuring today, and are more relevant than ever.

Tasks

While exploring the different websites you will be answering questions. Each site has its own set of questions, and your answers will be turned in at the end of the webquest. Additionally, while researching, you should be thinking about how the novel represents the information you are looking at. Once you have finished, write a short paragraph on how your views have changed regarding the novel, how your understanding of the issues have increased, or any general changes in your overall attitude, beliefs, or feelings dealing with the novel, Afghanistan, or the unit as a whole. Questions to ask (help for the paragraph):

1. How accurately does Hosseini represent Afghanistan, it's history, and it's people?
2. What characters or events from the novel can you connect to the information you looked at?
3. Does this information help your understanding of the novel? Why or why not?
4. Does this information change your beliefs, attitude, or feelings towards the novel (characters, plot, events) or the unit (disintegration of order)?

*IMPORTANT* Be sure to use textual evidence from your novel to explain your paragraph.

Process

Directions: Use each of the websites, and answer each of the corresponding questions. Once finished, move on to the "conclusion" section.

http://www.khaledhosseini.com/hosseini-bio.html
1. What did Hosseini’s parents do? 2. Where was Hosseini's family relocated and when?
3. What was Hosseini’s first book, and when did he write it? 4. What is one other interesting fact you found?

1. Who founded Afghanistan, and when?
2. What is the military service age and length of obligation?
3. What illicit drug is Afghanistan the world’s largest producer of?
4. What is one other interesting fact you found?

http://www.afghan-network.net/Landmines/
1. What city has more landmines than any other capital city in the entire world?
2. What "ex" country has the most landmines in Afghanistan?
3. How many mines still supposedly exist in Afghanistan?
4. What is one other interesting fact you found?

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/inddepth_coverage/asia/afghanistan/map_flash.html
1. What are 5 of the 9 ethnicities covered on this website?
2. Laila is a Tajik—what is the estimated population of Tajiks in Afghanistan?
3. Where are the Pashtuns originally from?
4. What is one other interesting fact you found?

http://domesticviolencestatistics.org/domestic-violence-statistics
1. What is the leading cause of injury to women?
2. In the United States, how many women are murdered a day by their husbands or boyfriends?
3. Boys raised in a home with domestic violence are twice as likely to do what?
4. What is one other interesting fact you found?

Evaluation

For this assignment you will be receiving a classwork grade-- on both the questions and the paragraph.

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Now that you have finished the webquest, I hope you have more knowledge and a better understanding of the author, Afghanistan, and the issues mentioned in the novel. What we are reading, although fictional, is based on hard truth. These websites, full of staggering statistics and interesting facts, should help to open your eyes to what is occurring in other countries today. The last step of this assignment is to write your paragraph. Refer back to the "task" section if you need refreshing, help, or ideas. Once you are finished, turn in your answered questions and the paragraph. I AM GOING TO MISS YOU GUYS :) Thanks for a great experience!

This webquest goes with the novel A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini. I am teaching the novel to a 12th grade Honors English class. The novel is divided into four sections, so the unit can be divided into 4 parts as well. The following 12th grade Virginia SOLs are covered if you decide to teach this novel:

12.3 The student will read and analyze the development of British literature and literature of other cultures. a) Recognize major literary forms and their elements. b) Recognize the characteristics of major chronological eras. c) Relate literary works and authors to major themes and issues of their eras.

12.4 The student will read and analyze a variety of informational materials, including electronic resources. a) Identify formats common to new publications and information resources. b) Recognize and apply specialized informational vocabulary. c) Evaluate a product based on analysis of the accompanying warranty and instruction manual. d) Evaluate the quality of informational and technical materials.

Standards

Credits

Other