**Beyond Hidden Messages Project Description**

*U.S. History/ Art project*

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Dr.Seuss is known for his political ideas that are demonstrated through his books for younger readers to read. This project will be collaborating with U.S. History and Art. The project will analyze the messages in Dr. Seuss's books such as The Lorax, The Cat in the Hat, Horton Hears a Who and The Butter Battle Book. The students will create a research paper about the hidden messages and why Dr. Seuss portrayed the historical events the way he did in his books. After the students have finalized their research paper they will use a picture from the book that represents an important part of the historical event and create a historical painting next to the original of what the event is supposed to mean or their interpretation. When the project has been finalized it will be exhibited and the student will share what they have learned.

**Essential Questions:**

How do political cartoons explain and show a situation?

How does the art relate to the event?

How can younger generations learn from books like these?

**Learning Goals:**

* Significance of political cartoons
* Understanding of why cartoons look the way they do
* Historical references
* Revise and edit work
* How to write a research paper

**Exhibition:**

* Students will exhibit art piece at an art venue
* Display research paper

Content

U.S. History:

For the U.S. History section, students will learn about different forms of propaganda and topics such as, the Cold War, pollution and among other things. Students will also learn about the significance these books meant for all kinds of readers.

Art: For the Art section, students will identify the different symbols used in political cartoons to show things that have happened. Their art piece will demonstrate what they have learned from their research and should also show a form of symbolism.

Calendar:

Week 1 &2:

* Find a Dr. Seuss book that interests you to learn about and start researching the historical message

Week 3:

* Start writing research paper and do in class peer critiques. You should be nearly finished with your final draft by the end of the week.

Week 4:

* Revise your final research paper and begin drafting ideas for your art painting.

Week 5:

* Share your ideas with the class about how you plan to demonstrate the historical event and get feed back. After you share your ideas start sketching and create a draft so that we can have a peer critique.

Week 6 & 7:

* Once your sketch looks amazing, start painting and have it finished by the end of two weeks.

Week 8:

* Prepare for Exhibition. Students will display research paper and art piece.

**Assessment:**

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| **Product:** | **Criteria:** |
| Research Paper *(50 points)* | At least 2 pages long12 pt Times New Roman Single spacedInformativeAnswers essential questionsShows understanding of topic |
| Art Piece *(50 points)* | Creative paintingDemonstrates topicUses symbolism |
| Exhibition *(100 points)* | Exhibit art piece and displays research paper   |