

The 8th grade social studies teachers will read the novel *Fever 1793* with their classes. I have created discussion guides, activities, and lesson plans for the teachers to use while reading the novel. Upon completion of the novel the teacher will schedule time to come to the Media Center for a 45 minute lesson. The lesson will use the nonfiction book *An American Plague*. I have enough copies of this title so that every two students can have one to use for the lesson. The students will work in pairs. Upon completing the lesson the students will do a research project related to topics introduced in the novel. Details and plans (including standards and goals) for both the lesson and the project are below.

The Lesson:

- 1) To begin the lesson we will define and discuss historical fiction. I will have ask students what they think historical fiction is and then they will share responses. We will discuss responses until an accurate definition is formed by the class.
- 2) Students will work in small groups at their table (groups of 4) to brainstorm what elements of the novel *Fever 1793* were based on historical facts.
- 3) Table group will share their ideas with the class.
- 4) Using the list of items that the students believe to be true from the novel, I will assign pairs to learn about one topic using the nonfiction book *An American Plague*. The pairs will then share what they have learned with the class. (Topics should include: The capital of the US being in Philadelphia in 1796; George Washington as president; Charles Peale, the bleeding of patients, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Bush Hill, The Free African Society, hot air balloon, and things that were tried as cures for yellow fever.
- 5) For an assessment, at the end of the lesson, students will create a Venn Diagram labeling one circle with *Fever 1793* and the other with *An American Plague*. Students will compare and contrast the two showing what they have learned from this lesson.

The Project:

Teachers will schedule a week to come to the media center, following the above lesson, to do a research project based on a factual element from the novel *Fever 1793*. This project will be a collaboration between the teacher and myself.

Before beginning their research the students will receive an overview/ mini-lesson of research skills. The attached PowerPoint will be used for the research skills overview. This should be sufficient for most of my 8th graders but if needed I will go more in depth about certain areas.

I will let each teacher decide how to assign project topics (let the kids choose at random, let them choose from a list, have them draw from a jar, etc.) The teachers will be able to best determine which classes are capable of choosing their own topic and which

need guidance while selecting. Students will then research their topic using online databases and other media center materials including the book *An American Plague*. Teachers will decide what type of research project they want their students to create (Powerpoint, Prezi, Glogster, written document, etc) and how long they would like it to be.

References:

Anderson, L. (2000). *Fever 1793*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster.

Murphy, J. (2003). *An American plague: the true and terrifying story of the yellow fever epidemic of 1793*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin.

Media Center Lesson Planning Tool

Lesson Topic: Realistic Elements in Historical Fiction

Area being used: Computers **Library classroom** Book shelves

Instructors: **Media led w/ Teacher assistance** Teacher led w/ Media assistance Teacher

Roles of Media Specialist: lead lesson in Media Center using the book *An American Plague* as a guide for discussing the realistic elements of *Fever 1793*

Role of Classroom teacher: read *Fever 1793* with the class before the lesson

Lesson Goal: Students will understand historical fiction; Students will be able to compare items from a historical fiction book to elements in a nonfiction book.

Common Core/ Florida Standards: CC6-8RH/SS5 Describe how a text presents information

AASL Standards: 4.1.3 Respond to literature and creative expressions of ideas in various formats and genres.

READS Standards: 8.2.2 Recognize that social, cultural, political and historical events influence ideas and information; 8.2.1 Identify and critically analyze literary and media genres and themes

Lesson materials and instruction in Media Center: Need 10 copies of *An American Plague* and 10 copies of *Fever 1793*

Media Center Lesson Planning Tool

Lesson Topic: Research

Area being used: **Computers** **Library classroom** **Book shelves**

Instructors: **Media led w/ Teacher assistance** **Teacher led w/ Media assistance** **Teacher**

Role of Media Specialist: Give research skills overview using PowerPoint; assist students while doing research

Role of Teacher: Decide how topics will be given; Create research project rubric with project guidelines

Lesson Goal: For students to be able to research a topic effectively and create a project based on their research.

Common Core/ Florida Standards: C.C. 8.W.9.b Research to Build and Present Knowledge: Apply grade 8 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g., “Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced”). C.C.8.W.9 Research to Build and Present Knowledge: Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

AASL Standards: 1.1.6 Read, view, and listen for information presented in any format (e.g., textual, visual, media, digital) in order to make inferences and gather meaning. 1.1.7 Make sense of information gathered from diverse sources by identifying misconceptions, main and supporting ideas, conflicting information, and point of view or bias. 4.1.3 Respond to literature and creative expressions of ideas in various formats and genres. 1.1.5 Evaluate information found in selected sources on the basis of accuracy, validity, appropriateness to needs, importance, and social and cultural context.

READS Standards: 8.4.2.1 Use appropriate presentation tools and techniques to share product.

Lesson materials and instruction in Media Center: Research PowerPoint; media computers

