Heritage Project

You will be reading among a set of novels over the next few weeks in reading class that follows a character’s struggles with immigration and adapting to life in America. In class, the class will be assigned to research the journey the main character in your story took to come to America.

Outside of class you will work with your parents on completing two small heritage projects. You will write a two-page report about your family’s heritage and complete a family heritage collage.

The report will consist of writing a short four or five paragraph report about you and your immediate family. The Family Data Sheet can assist you in gathering and organizing information about your family. Be sure to use the strategies and skills you learned while writing fiction stories to help describe your family as a group, including what everyone likes to do, favorite meals, hobbies, interests.

Next, you will write an additional four or five paragraphs based on a family member you will select to interview. Using the Interview Checklist as a guide, and adding any additional questions that you feel are needed, you will ask your selected person about his or her life. Try to ask your interviewee to describe some significant experiences of their childhood and adulthood. You can call, visit or Skype this family member for your interview. As an extra challenge, try to include at least one small seed story about your interviewee’s life growing up.

Lastly, you will be creating a heritage collage. In school, we will trace the outline of your profile, and you will fill in the space with items that reflect your own family heritage. You can draw your own pictures, cut out pictures from magazines or print them from the Internet, etc... to complete the profile. The example on the right (from a high school art class) represents a girl’s French, Irish and Scottish heritage background.

On December 4th, 2015, you will present your findings to the class. During this presentation, you will share what you learned about your family and talk about your family’s traditions and heritage. You can choose to do the presentation in front of the class verbally, or digitally. Some students may choose to make a 3-5 minute video, or PowerPoint presentation for this. I will leave the presentation choice open to any way that makes you the most successful. Have fun with it!
Family Data Sheet

Complete the data sheet and use this as a guide for writing your report.

NAMES OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY: ____________________________________________
(People who live in the same house as you)

PETS: ____________________________________________

FAMILY HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

@ ____________________________________________ → Things you like to do together
@ ____________________________________________  E.g. Hiking, fishing, watching movies, etc...
@ ____________________________________________
@ ____________________________________________

FAVORITE DINNERS: ____________________________________________
FAVORITE MUSIC: ____________________________________________
FAVORITE TV SHOWS: ____________________________________________
FAVORITE MOVIES: ____________________________________________
FAVORITE GAMES: ____________________________________________
FAVORITE OUTINGS (movies, museums, etc...) ____________________________________________

FAMILY HERITAGE:

MOM’S SIDE: ____________________________________________

DAD’S SIDE: ____________________________________________

DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE ANY “ETHNIC” TRADITIONS?

☐ No.  EX. My family is “Heinz-57,” we are a mix of all of a bunch of heritages mixed together.

☐ Maybe a little.  EX. My grandma has a few recipes from her home country we enjoy.

☐ Yes.  EX. We have family who speak different languages, and I’ve learned a few ethnic dances!

IF MAYBE OR YES, PROVIDE SPECIFIC DETAILS: ____________________________________________

__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
INTERVIEW CHECKLIST GUIDE

NAME: ____________________________________________

RELATION: ________________________________________

DATE OF BIRTH: _________________________________

NATIONALITY: __________________________________

CHILDHOOD (describe any significant experience)
☐ City: __________________________________________
☐ ______ Brothers and _______ sisters
☐ Home: Did you live in a house, in an apartment, on a farm? ____________________________
☐ Foods: Favorite foods growing up? ________________________________
☐ Games/Play/Sports: Were you involved in sports? What games did you play? With whom? _________
☐ Awards/Honors/Accomplishments: Did you win any awards or receive special recognition? _________
☐ School: Did you attend school? How far did you get in your studies? Degrees? __________________
☐ Pets: Did you have any family pets? What were they? _________________________________
☐ Work: Did you work as a child or a teenager? What jobs did you have? ______________________

ADULTHOOD
☐ Location: Where have you lived as an adult? ____________________________________________
☐ Military: Did you serve in the military? Which branch? Did you ever fight in a war? Describe. ______
☐ Work: What is/was your trade or profession? ____________________________
☐ Marriage: When did you meet? Describe your life together. ______________________________
☐ Home: Where do you live now? Describe your home(s). _________________________________
☐ Other: Are there any other significant experiences you would like to share about your life? _________

HIGH LEVEL QUESTIONS (Choose one or two appropriate questions and provide answers on the back)
- How did you meet your longest best friend? Do you still keep in touch today?
- What was the hardest thing you ever had to do? How did you overcome the challenge?
- Are there any traditions you did when you were younger that you don’t do today? Why did you stop?
- Who was a major role model for you growing up? What made that person so special?
- Did you ever live in another country? How is it different than living in the United States?
- Write your own question: ____________________________________________

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