

PROJECT TITLE: *Social Studies Takes Center Stage!*

GRADE LEVEL-4th **SUBJECT** Integrated Social Studies/ELA **BUDGET** \$704.00

1. **GRANT SUMMARY:** Give a brief description of your grant. 50 words or less. This section will be used publicly if your grant is funded. Include: What will your students be doing?

This grant enables students to utilize quality, rigorous reading materials that will allow them to be thoughtfully engaged in the learning standards of the new CCSS (Common Core State Standards) we are implementing next year. Students will be reading, discussing, and having fun performing Reader's Theater Social Studies(content area)plays in the classroom in flexible cooperative groups.

2. What is the **GOAL** of your project? What **OBJECTIVES** will you use to meet this goal?

The goal of my project is for each student to work cooperatively with a group to read Reader's Theater play and perform one for the class each month. The ultimate objective is for my students to achieve individualized gains in ELA through meaningful interaction with complex texts (various genres and Social Studies). In doing so, students will apply critical thinking skills needed for them to be able to interrogate a wide variety of text that meet the standards set forth by the CCSS. My objective is that every student reaches their full potential through authentic experiences with dynamic, exemplary reading materials.

3. What student **ACADEMIC NEED** or **PROBLEM** does this project address? How did you identify the need the project will address, and why is this project unique? Why do you consider this project to be an innovative solution to this need?

Since the CCSS is new, our current textbook series are not properly aligned to it. There is a need at the state, district, and school level for unique, challenging CCSS lessons, texts, and activities available for classroom use. Teachers will be searching, as the state currently is, for Common Core aligned, supplemental texts for the students. Reader's Theater is what makes this project unique. Through these content specific, leveled plays, students will not only be able to have authentic experiences while applying new ELA standards , but will be using speaking and listening skills to explore content area information; preparing them for necessary future college and workplace skills. These plays will make learning fun! Perhaps most important to this project is the ease of integration across the curriculum through the use of these plays and text, which is a notable shift in the direction of the curriculum. This project will make it easy to have a student centered classroom, driven by interest and individualization.

4. Describe your project in paragraph form. Tell us WHO will be using which MATERIALS or RESOURCES to do WHAT – and HOW. If applicable , tell us WHY you need a specific item; for example, why a digital camera instead of a 35 mm camera? (Please define any technical terms or new learning techniques.)

Fourth graders will be using content area Reader's Theater plays weekly as part of our integrated ELA/Social Studies shared and group reading. The plays are rigorously leveled for the fourth grade, which makes these books more challenging than what we currently have available on our campus. Students will be grouped in a variety of ways. After several days of practicing their roles in cooperative reading groups, students will perform their plays for the rest of the class. They will be given a choice of reading from their script or memorizing their lines. In groups, the students will have choices of parts, and be asked to use their own talents to help the group with their performance (ex: artist can design props/costumes). This project can be built upon in countless ways. Drama lends itself to writing activities, poetry, multi-media projects (video), and is memorable for students. These plays give students a real purpose for reading, which helps them to achieve lifelong reading habits.

5. What are the PLANS/possibilities for CONTINUATION of this project beyond the grant completion? How will this project influence your classroom instruction and your school? If it is to continue after grant expiration, how will it be funded, if applicable? CAN and HOW can this project be completed by other schools?

Once the sets of non consumable books are available in our classrooms, they can be used year after year and shared amongst our grade level and school for classroom use.

This project will allow me to meet the expectations of the new COMPASS teacher evaluation rubric and the CCSS by differentiating instruction, engaging students in learning, and enriching discussions in the classroom in a very fun and creative way. In implementing these practices, my students will benefit exponentially in all curricular areas, because they will be motivated to be active in their own learning process as well as the students in their reading group.

I think our school will be more motivated to use these types of literature in the classroom once they see how effectively they address the needs of our students and the instructional outcomes set forth by the district and state. In the future, perhaps the books can be ordered with funds available to our literacy library or school library.

6. Approximately HOW MANY pupils will be affected by this project? Explain this number.

Approximately 50 fourth graders will be affected by this project next year. I will be team teaching teaching ELA/Social Studies to my homeroom class and another class next year. . My colleague will be teaching both of our classes integrating Science and Math. After this year, the books will be shared with other teachers in my grade level, so all of the fourth grade classes could be affected in years to come (approximately 120 students each year.)

7. Give a general SCHEDULE of events from planning to project completion.

In May 2013, I will order the Reader's Theater Books and non-fiction Social Studies leveled book sets. Upon receiving them, I can begin to plan my curricular units and design the most effective plan for ongoing routines, procedures, evaluations and assessment rubrics for myself and the students.

As the year begins, I will practice procedures with students on how to work with their groups, routines, procedures, expectations. This will insure that classroom procedures will be firmly established to make the most of instruction/ learning time. As soon as the class has a firm handle on this, we can dive right in with our first unit and play.

Students will always be working on a play, but the objective is for everyone to practice a few times a week with their groups and be ready to perform at least one play a month. I will use a teacher made rubric for evaluation, as well as learning logs for self monitoring. Later in the year I plan to add other projects for the groups to extend learning.

8. EVALUATION: which of the following method(s) of evaluation will you use?

___x___ standardized tests

___x___ diagnostic assessments

___x___ rubrics

___x___ learning logs

___x___ teacher created informal and formal assessments

Please describe the method(s). How will you use the method(s) to determine whether the student need or problem in question three has been answered? Please be specific.

I will use my SLT's (Student Learning Targets), which use an Assess to Know Pre and Post Test to see the overall progress of my students. I will also have the data from their Rigby Reads assessments and ongoing DIBELS reading assessments that allow me to see their progress throughout the school year. I will also use the data from the state standardized LEAP or PARC assessments (not yet determined for next year) to determine if students have achieved sufficient progress in ELA standards.

To see progress on each student per unit, I will use teacher made tests. Project/performance rubrics will be used to gauge learning weekly. I will also use Louisiana Eagle computer assessments that the district and myself have created for my students in the areas of Social Studies as well as ELA.

Learning logs, or journals, will be kept daily by the students to reflect on learning taking place.