

# Black History Month Book Report & Visual Display

*in continued celebration of Black History*

***Assigned: Tuesday, February 6th***

***Report Topic and Book Selection Due: Friday, February 9th***

***Report and Visual Display Due: Thursday, February 29th***

***Presentations: Thursday, February 29th (with overflow on Friday 3/1 and Monday 3/4)***

**A note from Ms. McKaig:** In an episode of one of my favorite TV shows, *Blackish*, the main character is disappointed that his school-aged children are getting roughly the same Black History Month education as he did twenty years before, with lessons mostly focused on pillars like Martin Luther King Jr, Harriett Tubman, and Rosa Parks. While these three heroes are major, crucial, and should be thoroughly respected and honored year-round, there is so much more to Black History than these three people! The show expresses that it is impossible to “sum up” African-American history in one, or three, figures, as the history is way too complex and nuanced for that.

**Assignment:** You are tasked with selecting and reading a biography or an autobiography about the life of a notable African American, alive or passed, to celebrate Black History Month. Continuing from Ms. McKaig’s note above, you are asked to challenge yourself and *avoid choosing one of the three people listed above*, and to choose a person who shares a common interest with YOU!—and it is possible that you are not too familiar with that person *yet*—that is why we learn! You can see a list of possible suggestions on the next page.

You should select a biography from the SJ23 School library, from the public library, or bookstore about a person who has made the world a better place by devoting their life to an important cause, discovering something, teaching something, leading something, or being a pioneer in something (the first person to do something), etc. After reading your biography, you will create your report. You may read your biography during DEAR time in class; however, your project will be completed at home.

## **What is Biography?**

*A true story (non-fiction).*

*Written to inform the reader about a person's life.*

*Written about people that have done important things during their lifetime.*

*An **autobiography** is a book a person writes about himself or herself.*

### Common Interests paired with Subject Suggestions for your Report!

#### **Sports**

Serena Williams  
Venus Williams  
Kobe Bryant  
Michael Jordan  
Arthur Ashe  
Jesse Owens  
Florence Griffith Joyner, a.k.a "Flo-Jo"  
Bill Russel  
Simone Biles



#### **Singing / Entertainment**

Nina Simone  
Jazmine Sullivan  
Beyoncé  
Diana Ross  
Whitney Houston  
Oprah Winfrey  
Gordon Parks (first African American on staff at LIFE magazine, first black writer & director of a studio film)



#### **School / Academics**

Ruby Bridges  
Michelle Obama  
Maya Angelu  
Gil Scott-Heron (writer, spoken-word performer, known for laying the foundation for rap music)  
Shirley Chisholm (first black woman elected to Congress)  
President Barack Obama



#### **Science**

Mae Jemison (first African American woman in outer space)  
Neil deGrasse Tyson  
Ronald McNair (NASA astronaut and physicist, mission specialist on the Challenger)



# Book Research, Report, Project & Presentation Instructions

## ***Part 1- RESEARCH & READING***

- Read a biography/autobiography book about an important/famous person.
  - BE SURE THIS IS A BOOK YOU CAN FINISH READING IN 2-2.5 WEEKS!
  - Picture books are OKAY for this! There are many picture books with mature, complex themes and writing.
  - Make sure you approve your biography selection with Ms. McKaig and with a parent/guardian by **Friday, February 9th**.
- As you read, take notes. It is okay to look at other sources for this information.
  - Birthdate, death date (if no longer living), where they grew up
  - Information about their childhood
    - Family life, school life, significant experiences
  - How that person made (or is making) the world a better place
  - Other interesting facts about that person's life
  - At least **two Catholic virtues** they exemplify: perseverance, responsibility, kindness, love, fortitude, self-control, prayerfulness, patriotism etc.

## ***Part 2 - BOOK REPORT (3 PARAGRAPHS) - DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH***

- Your report will contain **at least three** written or typed paragraphs summarizing the life of your person, based upon the biography that you read.
  - Title Page
    - Name of the person you researched
    - A picture of that person
    - Your name
    - & the due date
  - 3 Paragraph Report

- Format: your report paper needs to be at least 1.5 full pages (if typed: double-spaced, in size 12pt Times New Roman font)

## **REPORT FORMAT**

REMEMBER! Paragraph Format: intro/topic sentence, detail, detail, detail, (detail), concluding/closing sentence

- **Paragraph One**
  - Childhood / Early Life
    - Family life, school life, significant experiences
    - Where they grew up
    - What was happening in history in the time they grew up
- **Paragraph Two**
  - How they have made (or are still making) the world a better place.
    - Career / Life Work
    - Achievements
    - What are they best known for?
  - Are they still alive? If so, what current projects are they working on or how are they spending their time?!
  - If they are not still alive, when did they die? How are they remembered?
- **Paragraph Three**
  - How do they inspire you?
    - What two or three Catholic virtues do they exemplify:  
Examples include: perseverance, responsibility, kindness, love, fortitude, self-control, prayerfulness, etc.
    - Other interesting facts about your person's life
    - Concluding sentence

### ***Part 3 - VISUAL DISPLAY (DUE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH)***

- **Visual Display**
  - After reading your book and writing your report, it is time to creatively display what you have learned by making a visual display!

- You may choose to display your visual display any way you would like:
  - examples: a poster, a Google Slides Presentation, a cereal box, a picture book, a video news report, etc.

**Part 4- PRESENTATION ( *Thursday, February 29th–with overflow on Friday 3/1 and Monday 3/4* )**

- You will be presenting on the life of your person by sharing your visual display with your class. Your presentation must be at least 2 minutes and no more than 4 minutes in length.
- Your presentation must include the following:
  - Sharing your visual display
  - Sharing two Catholic virtues they exemplify
  - Sharing how they inspire you

## Rubric / Scoring

Criteria	Description of Expectations	Points
<b>Paper Format</b>	The paper is typed or neatly written on lines; paper is oriented correctly.	<b>/5 pts</b>
<b>Title Page</b>	Title Page includes: Name of the person you researched, a picture of that person, your name, & the due date.	<b>/5 pts</b>
<b>Spelling / Grammar</b>	Every sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation. Grade-level vocabulary words are spelled correctly.	<b>/5 pts</b>
<b>Organization</b>	Paper is organized in at least three separate paragraphs. Each paragraph begins with an indent. No run on sentences. No sentence fragments. Paragraphs follow the format: intro/topic sentence, detail, detail, detail, (detail), closing/concluding sentence	<b>/5 pts</b>
<b>Content</b>	Report contains researched information about every question from the report handout. Information is paraphrased in students' own words.  <b>Paragraph One</b> Childhood / Early Life: Family life, school life, significant experiences. Where they grew up. What was happening in history in the time they grew up <b>Paragraph Two</b> How they have made (or are still making) the world a better place. Career / Life Work. Achievements. What are they best known for? Are they still alive? If so, what current projects are they working on or how are they spending their time? If they are not still alive, when did they die? How are they remembered? <b>Paragraph Three</b> How do they inspire you? What two or three virtues do they exemplify? Examples include: perseverance, responsibility, kindness, love, fortitude, self-control, prayerfulness, etc. Other interesting facts about your person's life. Concluding sentence.	<b>/20 pts:</b>
<b>Visual Display</b>	The visual project was completed and thoughtfully created. The project resembled a clear understanding of their research.	<b>/30 points</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	The content of the presentation is well organized and detailed in the sharing of your visual display, sharing two virtues they exemplify, and sharing how they inspire you . You gave an oral presentation to the class at an appropriate pace and volume. Your presentation is between two and four minutes long. You made eye contact throughout their presentation.	<b>/10 points</b>

**TOTAL POINTS:** \_\_\_\_\_/80

**ELA Project grade, Quarter 3**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Black History Month Book Report & Visual Display Selections Sheet!

Person I chose: \_\_\_\_\_

Biography/Autobiography Title:

\_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

How I will get this book: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Ms. McKaig's Stamp of Approval: \_\_\_\_\_