

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



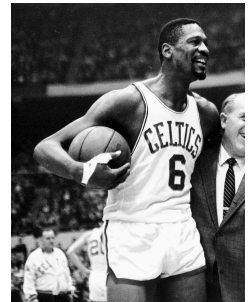
Singing / Entertainment

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)



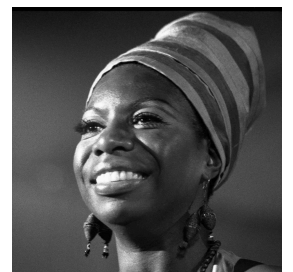
School / Academics

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
Paper Format	The paper is typed or neatly written on lines; paper is oriented correctly.	/5 pts
Title Page	Title Page includes: Name of the person you researched, a picture of that person, your name, & the due date.	/5 pts
Spelling / Grammar	Every sentence begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation. Grade-level vocabulary words are spelled correctly.	/5 pts
Organization	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	/5 pts
Content	Report contains researched information about every question from the report handout. Information is paraphrased in students' own words. 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 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.	/20 pts:
Visual Display	The visual project was completed and thoughtfully created. The project resembled a clear understanding of their research.	/30 points
Presentation	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.	/10 points

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: _____