

Author WebQuest: Walter Dean Myers



Introduction

- Authors entertain us with their vivid imagination and their talent for writing.
- We know most of their popular stories, but what do we really know about them?
- Where did they come from?
- What do they look like?
- How do they come up with the ideas for their wonderful stories?
- Is the author working on any new stories?

Tasks

1. The task is to find out the answers to the seven questions listed here about **Walter Dean Myers**. Two of these questions will be created by you. The project will need to be put together in a book dedicated to the author.
2. A narrative of the **Walter Dean Myers'** life. (Answers to the questions.)
3. A Venn diagram comparing two books written by **Walter Dean Myers**. One book could be **A Shadow of the Red Moon**.
4. Design a new cover for your favorite book.
5. Provide a list of 6-10 books **Walter Dean Myers** has written.

Process – Steps 1-3

1. You will choose an author from the list in Resources. Visit **Walter Dean Myers'** website at <http://www.walterdeanmyers.net/> or <http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/myers.html> and research the author's background and book information.
 - <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/myersw#interviews> This site has audio quotes and comments made by Walter Dean Myers.
2. It is best if questions are answered first
 - Where does the Walter Dean Myers live?
 - When/where was he born?
 - How does he come up with story ideas? (Are their stories based on real life events or from a creative imagination?)
 - When he needs an illustrator, who does he use and why?
 - Is the author working on a new piece of literature?
 - ***Come up with your own **2** questions about the author.***
3. Create a list of books the author has written. You can get help for this on the following sites:
 - <http://aalbc.com/authors/walter1.htm> This has a list of books with summaries

Process – Steps 4 - 7

4. Pick two of the books/stories from your list to read and analyze in a Venn diagram. One of the two books should be **A Shadow of the Red Moon**.
 - <http://www.2learn.ca/construct/graphicorg/venn/venn1.html> (Click to print out copy)
5. Pick the story/book you liked the best and redesign the cover for the book.
6. Create a list of the authors work using word processing.
7. The cover of your ***Walter Dean Myers'*** presentation will include the name of the author, your name as presenter, and anything creative related to the author. (Ex. A hand drawn picture of the author, pictures of characters from his/her stories, etc.)

Evaluation

The task is to find out the answers to the seven questions listed here about **Walter Dean Myers**. Two of these questions will be created by you. The project will need to be put together in a book dedicated to the author. Total Points = 100

- 30 pts. - A narrative of the **Walter Dean Myers'** life. (Generated from answers to the questions.)
- 25 pts. - A Venn diagram comparing two books written by **Walter Dean Myers**. One book could be **A Shadow of the Red Moon**.
- 30 pts. - Design a new cover for your favorite book.
- 15 pts. - Provide a list of 6-10 books **Walter Dean Myers** has written.

Conclusion

- How was your project?
- Do you have a better understanding of how authors create their imaginative stories?
- Did you find that Walter Dean Myers wrote in a certain style or on a certain subject?
- Next time you have a writing assignment in class, try to use the writing style of the author you studied or use the same subject matter. You never know what you could come up with.

Credits

- Myers, Walter. "Walter Dean Myers". April 26, 2009
<<http://www.walterdeanmyers.net/>>.
- Reading Rockets, "A video Interview with Walter Dean Myers". WETA Public Television: Washington, D.C.. April 28, 2009
<<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/myersw#interviews>>.
- Vandergrift, Kay E.. "Learning About Authors and Illustrators". Rutgers University School of Communication, Information and Library Studies. April 28, 2009 <<http://www.scils.rutgers.edu/professional-development/childlit/myers.html>>.
- "Venn Diagram@2Learn.ca: A Printable Teaching Resource". 2Learn.ca Educational Society. April 28, 2009
<<http://www.2learn.ca/construct/graphicorg/venn/venn1.html>>.
- "Walter Dean Myers". African American Literature Book Club. April 28, 2009
<<http://aalbc.com/authors/walter1.htm>>.

Teacher's Page

- Please see Mrs. Griffin for any additional information and directions.
- We are setting up for SOL testing in the library, but you are welcome to come to the library to use the stage computers or to use the computer carts as long as permissible.