THE BIG
FOURTH and FIFTH GRADE
RESEARCH PROJECT
Explanation of
THE BIG FOURTH and FIFTH GRADE
RESEARCH PROJECT

It is the goal of the fourth and fifth grade teachers of Trinity School of Texas to offer a summer reading program that both challenges and excites. We well understand our students are ready to enjoy the summer break, and we want that as well. However, we want to help them retain the levels of reading and understanding they have achieved by assigning a summer project that will keep skills polished, as well as allow for some fun reading.

While brainstorming ideas for summer reading, we developed a broader plan which will include English, Reading and Social Studies. The plan includes a summer research assignment, as well as a summer reading assignment.

We proudly introduce, The Big Fourth and Fifth Grade Research Project. It will span the summer months and the first few weeks of school. It will culminate in a “show and tell” program, complete with costumed historical figures and table top displays. Much of the project will be done in our individual classrooms in the fall, but the work assigned for the summer months will be invaluable. (Upcoming 4th graders, hang on to those costumes!)

Each fourth and fifth grade student will research an important individual from America’s past. Fourth grade assignments will come from Colonial America through the end of the Civil War, while Fifth Grade’s will come from the years following the Civil War. Each student will draw a name before the end of the year. Then, over the summer, they will be expected to conduct research, as described in the following pages. They may read a book about their chosen person, but they are not required to. Students will collect data on data collection sheets. All research is to be kept in a folder provided for each student. Once back in school in the fall, the real work will begin!

Students will also read one assigned reading book. They will keep a journal of their reading; also described in the following pages.

Both of these assignments, research and reading, are due the first day of school.

We are excited to kick off our summer reading program in anticipation of a great new school year in the fall of 2014. Please sign and return the signature page (last page) by Friday, May 16, 2014. As always, thank you for your continued support of your children and Trinity School of Texas.

Sheila Burnett (4), Cindy Brelsford (5), Angela Fuller (5)
SUMMER RESEARCH AND READING
ASSIGNMENT

SUMMER RESEARCH

My person: ____________________________________________

Just the Facts!

How to gather information:

1. Get your parent’s permission to do a search on your home computer. There are also computers available at the Longview Public Library, as well as all kinds of information in the form of books!
2. Save information you find to your flash drive or to a writable CD. At home, you can bookmark your sites or copy them to the same device.
3. Scan your information for the details that you will need. Print the information that you feel are reliable sources. Cite your sources using the ‘Examples of Sources’ page. Remember, we do not use Wikipedia!
4. Look at the data retrieval chart and make sure you look for the specific information needed for the chart.
5. Look at the documents you have printed. Look through the documents for important details. Use three highlighters to highlight details about your famous person.
   - Yellow – Early Life
   - Pink – Young Adulthood
   - Green – Adulthood
6. After you have located the facts, place them in the correct category on the Data Retrieval Chart.

Primary Documents:

You will need at least five primary documents (birth and death certificates, marriage certificates, printed articles, pictures, etc.) related to this person and his or her life for a later project. As you do your research, look for these also. Use the National Archives for pictures and documents. Go to http://FindAGrave.com for pictures of tombstones or memorial sites. Go to the National Historical Parks and Sites for additional pictures. YouTube is also a great source for documentaries. Cite your sources!

Look carefully at the clothing of this period. You will wear a “costume” of your creation for our big presentation night!
SUMMER READING – 4th Grade

The assigned reading for 4th grade is Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume. Fourth grader, Peter Hatcher has a terrible problem – his little brother Fudge!

Journaling requirements are:

4th Grade Journaling Assignment – In a spiral, write three bullet details per chapter: one (1) from the beginning of the chapter, one (1) from the middle of the chapter and one (1) from the end of the chapter.
5th grade assigned reading is The Enchanted Castle by Edith Nesbit. This is a story where reality and fantasy intertwine as four children discover an enchanted castle, a magic ring and a sleeping princess who is really just a girl pretending to be a princess. This was a very popular fantasy fiction book in the early 1900s; years the 5th grade will be studying.

5th Grade Journaling Assignment – In a spiral, write 10 bullet details per chapter: three (3) from the beginning of the chapter, four (4) from the middle of the chapter and three (3) from the end of the chapter.
### Data Retrieval Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Life</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Young Adulthood</th>
<th>Adult</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth:</td>
<td>Physical Appearance:</td>
<td>Education:</td>
<td>Marriage:</td>
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<td>When:</td>
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<td>Where:</td>
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<tr>
<td>How long did he/she remain in birthplace?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents:</td>
<td>Obstacle in early life (causes):</td>
<td>Friendships or Influences:</td>
<td>Friends:</td>
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<td>Siblings:</td>
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<td>Enemies:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early Education:</td>
<td>Person’s “Stand” on something:</td>
<td>Great ideas, inventions or unusual experiences:</td>
<td>Accomplishments or Honors:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hobbies or Pleasure Activities:</td>
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<td>Success in overcoming obstacles:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Military or Service Profession:</td>
<td>Death (details):</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Obstacles:</td>
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USE THE BACK OF THE PAPER FOR ADDITIONAL NOTES. You may have another copy of this page if you need one.
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Examples of Sources:

Internet address:

Author last name, first name "Title of page information came from." Title of Website. Date or year the website was last updated. Full URL Web Address. Date information was gathered.


Magazine article:


Book:


Newspaper Article:

I have read and understand the Explanation of THE BIG FOURTH and FIFTH GRADE RESEARCH PROJECT. I understand that I am responsible for summer research of the following historical figure:

______________________________________________________. I understand that I am also responsible for reading and journaling the following book before the first day of school:

______________________________________________________.

______________________________  ______________________
Student Signature               Date

______________________________  ______________________
Parent/Guardian Signature       Date