

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Research Report

You will be writing a research paper on a famous American author. Then, using at least two books as sources, you will write a one and a half to three page MLA style research paper *about the life and accomplishments of your author*.

The final draft of the paper must include the following sections in this order:

- MLA coversheet
- Outline
- 1 and 1/2 to 3 page (double-spaced) body
- Works cited

The due dates for the research paper are:

- Project and sources assigned *in class Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>*
- Rough draft works cited page *due in class Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>*
- At least fifteen note cards *due in class Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>*
- Rough draft outline *due in class Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>*
- Rough draft paper *due in class Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>*
- Final paper *due Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>*

As we study MLA style and proper procedures for research writing, you will be receiving many handouts with information about how to properly format your paper. However, there are a couple of things I want to be sure you know about MLA right from the start:

- Your last name and the page number should be found in the top right hand corner of every page of the report (except for the coversheet)
- Your paper should be in Times New Roman font, size 12
- All margins for the paper should be set at 1”
- The works cited page must be alphabetized
- Your paper should have a name/title (do NOT just call it “American Author Report”)
- Your paper **MUST** include at least two in-text citations (one per source)

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, you will give a brief, informal presentation on your author. In two to three minutes, you will explain to the class the following information:

1. Who your author was
2. Anything interesting about his life
3. What he wrote
4. What his most famous books/poems/plays were about

## Recommended Authors

You may choose any famous author for your report. Below is a list of recommended American authors (based on books available at the Tempe Library). However, feel free to choose a writer who is not on this list.

1. Laura Ingalls Wilder: The Little House in the Big Woods, Little House on the Prairie (novels)
2. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: “Paul Revere’s Ride” (poem)
3. Edgar Allan Poe: The Raven (poem), “The Tell-Tale Heart” (short story)
4. Herman Melville: Moby Dick (novel)
5. Mark Twain (a.k.a. Samuel Clemens): The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (novels)
6. Langston Hughes: “Dream Deferred” and “Mother to Son” (poems)
7. Ernest Hemingway: For Whom the Bell Tolls and The Old Man and the Sea (novels)
8. John Steinbeck: The Pearl, The Red Pony, The Grapes of Wrath (novels)
9. Louisa May Alcott: Little Women and Jo’s Boys (novels)
10. Harriet Beecher Stowe: Uncle Tom’s Cabin (novel)
11. Jack London: Call of the Wild, White Fang (novels)
12. Robert Frost: “The Road Not Taken” (poem)
13. E.B. White: Charlotte’s Web and Stuart Little (novels)
14. Dr. Seuss (a.k.a. Theodore Geisel): The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish (picture books)
15. Isaac Asimov: Foundation (novel, series)
16. Emily Dickinson: “Because I Could Not Stop for Death...” and “Success Is Counted Sweetest” (poems)
17. Maya Angelou: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (book)
18. Harper Lee: To Kill a Mockingbird (book)
19. L. Frank Baum: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (book)
20. Toni Morrison: Beloved (book)