

Language Arts: Literature Study

Students will:

- review the organization of writing in a play (e.g., acts, staging directions)
- use research skills to uncover information about Wilder.
- research and study challenging vocabulary used in *Our Town*.
- construct a map of Grovers Corners, NH according to info in Act I of play.
- assume the role of a character and read his/her dialogue with expression.
- participate in ongoing, formal literary discussions of the play.
- show reading comprehension also through written reflections, quizzes, and tests.
- develop a list of physical attributes of *Our Town's* characters across the three acts and compare them to their own physical attributes.

Social Studies

Students will:

- apply research skills to a variety of resources, including the Internet, to generate a list of facts about life from 1900-1920's in NH/U.S.
- add to a timeline of significant historical events from Civil War to 1920s.

Language Arts: Writing

Students will:

- use paragraph writing skills to respond to open-ended questions about the play.
- develop interview questions to learn about senior citizens' lives in the early 1900s, *Our Town's* era.
- compose a short story based on information gained from interviews with a local senior citizen.
 - construct a plot outline in the prewriting phase.
 - write at least one draft and use feedback to revise.
 - place story into anthology to present to individuals upon which stories were based.

**A STUDY OF *OUR TOWN*:
Looking to the Past
to Build a Future**

Language Arts: Drama

Students will:

- participate in a series of theatre warm-up "games."
- do role plays as characters from *Our Town*.
- practice being a grounded, focused actor and a respectful, involved audience.
- do prewriting of a "story seed" collected from senior citizen:
 - with a peer, map the setting of a short story "seed."
 - retell the story to a peer using the map.
 - do a sensory walk through the story with a peer.

Science

Students will:

- examine energy use used by the residents of Grovers Corners, NH in *Our Town*.
- compare and contrast the *Our Town* residents' energy use to that of today in U.S.

Art in Atelier

Students will:

- create masks to represent *Our Town* characters' physical attributes in three acts:
 - make a mold of a peer's face.
 - create a plaster positive from the mold.
 - apply clay to the positive of him/herself.
 - paper mache over the clay.
 - paint masks realistically.
- cooperate with peers representing the same character but in a different act of the play.
- alter the mask to facilitate its use by an actor.
- use the mask effectively when role playing a character from *Our Town*.

Technology (Computer Use)

Students will:

- apply word processing and desktop publishing skills to produce a final copy of a short story for a short story anthology based on "story seeds" collected from local senior citizens

Music

Students will:

- learn and sing the songs included in *Our Town* (e.g., "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds.")
- discuss the musical context in which Grovers Corners, NH, residents live (e.g., Polish town, nonsecular traditions).
- Study and play excerpts from the "Our Town Suite" by Aaron Copland.