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

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:
  o with a peer, map the setting of a short story “seed.”
  o retell the story to a peer using the map.
  o do a sensory walk through the story with a peer.

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:
  o construct a plot outline in the prewriting phase.
  o write at least one draft and use feedback to revise.
  o place story into anthology to present to individuals upon which stories were based.

Language Arts: Literature Study

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.

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

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.

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.

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

Art in Atelier

Students will:
• create masks to represent Our Town characters’ physical attributes in three acts:
  o make a mold of a peer’s face.
  o create a plaster positive from the mold.
  o apply clay to the positive of him/herself.
  o paper mache over the clay.
  o 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.

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.

Source: Jane Percival, Hilltown Cooperative Charter School, Haydenville, Mass.