

Mark Twain Boyhood Home & Museum
 Lesson Plan for *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
 Created by: Cindy Wolff, Deena Irwin, Tracy Strayhorn
 School: Wright City, Wentzville, David Lipscomb: State: MO and TN
 July 13, 2010 – Summer Teachers Workshop
 Hannibal, Missouri

LESSON PLAN FOR THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER	
Concept or Topic: Creative Writing/Reporting	Suggested Grade Level: Middle School (can be modified for other levels)
Subject: Communication Arts	Suggested Time Frame: 5-10 Days
Objective(s): Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define journalistic terms and vocabulary • describe/explain the structure of news articles • produce and publish written work, using appropriate technology • analyze and assess the information and ideas gathered from a variety of print and electronic sources • develop keyboarding skills • develop peer-editing and proof-reading skills 	
State Standards: Missouri Communication Arts R 6-9	
Assessment Options: This is a culminating activity in which students will work cooperatively creating a local newspaper which accurately reflects the era of Tom Sawyer. The students will be assessed by group as well as individually. See attached scoring guide. Scoring guide for group: http://www.ri.net/vidcon/PK/Cooperative%20Learning%20Project%20Rubric%20A.doc Scoring guide for individual: http://alex.state.al.us/uploads/11703/Newspaper%20Article%20Rubric.htm	
Vocabulary: Students will be expected to use period vocabulary accurately which will be pulled from a list they have created during the reading of the book.	
Subject Area Integration: Social studies, Art, PE	

LESSON PLAN FOR *THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER*

Background Information: Reading and thorough understanding of *Tom Sawyer* and exposure to a variety of newspaper formats. A field trip will be arranged with the local newspaper and/or a newspaper journalist, editor, illustrator will be invited to speak to the class.

Materials:

- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*
- Vocabulary List
- Computer and suggested websites
- Paper
- Writing/Drawing Instruments
- Access to Library (for research)

Technology:

Students will use the computer for research and to create their newspaper article as well as combining it into the final product. They will use fonts that reflect the time period.

Google: Images 1850s newspapers

Website for Newspaper Template: <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/creating-classroom-newspaper-249.html>

Related Twain Quotes/Passages

www.twainquotes.com

Lesson Sequence: (include approximate length of time for each part of the lesson)

Hook/Intro: Pass out examples of newspapers from the 1850s. Give students time to examine and discuss. Then pass out examples of today's newspaper. Facilitate discussion as to the differences. (1 Day)

(Note: To kick off the unit, or as a culminating activity, visit a newspaper or have speakers such as editors or journalists come to class. Prepare students ahead of time for such activities.)

Teaching of the Concept: Students will choose a favorite scene from the novel and begin creating that scene into a newspaper article retelling it their own words. Students will be grouped based on their scene selection. (2-3 Days)

Suggested Questions:

- When you look at a newspaper, what do you see?
- As a reporter what kinds of questions would you ask? (Who, what, when, where, why, so what – what makes this story worth reporting?)

LESSON PLAN FOR *THE ADVENTURES OF TOM SAWYER*

- As a reader, what do you want to know?

Learning Activity: Students will choose which scene from the book that they will report. They will be grouped cooperatively by scene selection. They will then develop their story through quotes, vocabulary, and interview. They will illustrate, edit, and revise their story. Each student will individually develop one of the following in addition to their article: advertisement, marriage/birth announcement, coming attractions, sports/games, letters to the editor, advice column, arrest report, classifieds (employment, real estate, animals, etc.) (1-2 Days)

Review/Closure: Compiling, printing, and release of newspaper. Each student will receive an issue and the issues will be shared by displaying them in the school halls. (3-5 Days)

Homework: Completion of their individual article assignments. (Students can hone their self-evaluation skills here by critiquing each other's efforts.)

Suggested Follow-Up Activities:

- A grade level contest will be conducted to name the newspaper.
- This format can be adapted to assess other books read during the year.
- Critical thinking activities regarding the veracity of present day news stories
- Develop a class (or school) newspaper and publish as a regular class activity to foster skills in research, writing, critical thinking, graphic arts, collaboration, deadlines, etc.
- Challenge students to write book summaries/book reports as "breaking news" instead of traditional book reports.