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| **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** | | |
| DATE: MAY | LEVEL: 8th grade Humanities | TOPIC: Author Background - WebQuest |
| **ESSENTIAL QUESTION:**   * How might learning about Sherman Alexie’s life inform our reading of the text?   **ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS:**   * Students will learn that The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian is a fictionalized autobiography of Alexie’s childhood growing up on a Spokane Indian reservation and in Wellpinit, WA. * Students will read excerpts of other novels written by Alexie and be able to discern thematic connections in his writing. * Students will begin to think about how stereotypes of Native Americans are perpetuated in film. | | |
| **LESSON OUTLINE:**  **Materials:**   * A copy of The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian * Advance arrangements will be made for class to be held in a computer lab to complete the webquest * Webquest worksheet and website outline   **Steps / Procedure:**   * *Tell students that today’s class will be dedicated to completing a webquest to learn more about the author of The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Explain to students what a webquest is and distribute the list of links that students will be reading and analyzing.(5 mins)*   *Sites for Webquest:*   1. *“Superman and Me” by Sherman Alexie* [*http://www.fallsapart.com/superman.html*](http://www.fallsapart.com/superman.html)   *Alexie’s essay “Superman and Me” talks about his life on the reservation and how he learned to read through comics. Students could tie this essay to the idea that Junior is a cartoonist, his emphasis on education as a way out, as well as his struggle with familial and tribal expectations.*   1. *“I Hated Tonto (Still Do)” by Sherman Alexie* [*http://www.fallsapart.com/tonto.html*](http://www.fallsapart.com/tonto.html)   *Alexie’s essay on how Native Americans are represented in film and how perpetuates stereotypes and racism. Alexie also demonstrates how such stereotypes can become internalized.*   1. *Sherman Alexie’s Biography* [*http://www.fallsapart.com/biography.html*](http://www.fallsapart.com/biography.html)   *By reading this short piece on Alexie’s life, students will quickly see the connections between the novel and his life.*   1. *Excerpt from Alexie’s book, The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven* [*http://www.etsu.edu/writing/studentsamlit/alexie.htm#excerpt*](http://www.etsu.edu/writing/studentsamlit/alexie.htm#excerpt)   *5. Interview Transcript: Sherman Alexie: Up All Night*  [*http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript\_alexie.html*](http://www.pbs.org/now/transcript/transcript_alexie.html)   * *Distribute the webquest worksheet students will complete by the end of class.**Review the outline, answer any questions and then let students work independently for the remainder of the class (5 mins)* * This lesson is planned for a 50 minute period. | | |

**Webquest - Sherman Alexie**

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| **Website** | **List three important facts you learned.** | **How does this site help you understand ATDPTI?** | **What questions do you have from reviewing this site?** |
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