|  |
| --- |
| **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**

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