

Author

Sharon Shuck

Grades 6-8

Time Needed: 2 class periods

Objectives:

- Students will assume the voice of an average person living through a historical period and write a short story.
- Students will research how average people were effected by history, and what the lives of individuals were like during important periods of time.
- Students will engage critical thinking skills, research skills, analysis, and knowledge synthesis to create their stories.

Watch the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQHBE0XC864&feature=youtu.be>

Questions for class (after video):

1. Why do you think Shuck chose to write from Frank Doolittle's perspective?
2. What are some challenges that could come from writing from a historical person's perspective?
3. What could we learn from writing from a historical person's perspective?

For Students:

Author Sharon Shuck wrote what is called a "speculative" novel. It is based on historical facts, but it is written from the point of view of her Grandfather, Frank Doolittle.

For this assignment, you will assume the voice of a person from history. But here is the catch: the person cannot be a famous, well-known historical figure. Choose a time and place in history where lots of people were present, and imagine those events from their perspective. Some ideas are the Civil Rights Movement, the Dustbowl, Feudal Europe, the Fur Trade, or any other historical moment that effected a lot of people.

Research what the lives of people were like during that time. Using what you've learned, write a short story from the perspective of an average person living through that event.

Make sure to include your research!

Follow-up questions (after assignment):

1. What did you expect to find in your research? Did anything surprise you?
2. What was most challenging about assuming the voice of a person from the past?
3. Did anything surprise you about what you wrote?
4. Think about *today* in history. What major important events are happening now? If a person in the future wanted to write from *your* perspective, what might they say? What might they get wrong or right?