

Worthington Bicentennial Teachers' Grant Proposal

When I Was Young in Worthington

Granby Elementary School

Kristen Watson

Amount Requested: \$800

1. Project Objectives

The purpose of this project is to give students an opportunity to place themselves in Worthington's past. They will select a decade to research and then create a picture book based on what they've learned. They will use the Worthington Memory Project as a springboard for their research. Through articles, photographs, diaries, and interviews, they will experience what it was like to be a youngster in Worthington during different decades. As they do this, they will develop and hone reading, writing, and researching skills.

This project meets all of the priorities of the guidelines. It will be completed by June of 2003. It enhances existing curriculum by having students utilize reading and writing skills for a real purpose and it extends their knowledge of Worthington's history. This project will directly benefit approximately 80 students. Indirectly, it will potentially benefit all the students at Granby School as the completed picture books will be placed in the school library. This project uses the Worthington Memory Project to help the students with their research. Projects could be documented by taking digital photographs of or scanning the completed picture books for future inclusion in the Project.

2. Project Description

Students will begin the process by listening to the Cynthia Rylant book, When I Was Young in the Mountains. This story will be used to generate a discussion on what it is like to be young in Worthington now. Students will be asked: what is it like to be young in Worthington now? what opportunities are available to you? what do you like to do? where can you go? how do you dress? where do you live? Students will be asked to select a decade that interests them (from 1800-1990). Students will then be introduced to the Worthington Memory Project web site, where they will begin their research. In addition, students will travel to the Orange Johnson House and Downtown Worthington in order to collect information. Teachers will invite residents to discuss their growing up years to small groups or whole classes, as appropriate. All the sixth graders at Granby Elementary will be participating. This project enhances existing curriculum by having students utilize reading and writing skills for a real purpose as it extends their knowledge of Worthington's history.

Projects could be documented by taking digital photographs of or scanning the completed picture books for future inclusion in the Worthington Memory Project.

3. Project Time Line

March 2003--Students will listen to When I Was Young in the mountains. They will choose a decade and begin research on that particular decade in general (dress, activities, typical housing, etc.).

April 2003--Students will narrow their research to life in Worthington during their chosen decade. They will take a field trip to the Village Green and downtown Worthington to obtain ideas for their illustrations. Students will go to the Orange Johnson House. They will also listen to residents speak about their childhoods in Worthington.

May 2003--Research will be completed and students will begin work on their final projects (illustrated picture books that describe the life of a fictional child in Worthington in a particular decade). The classroom teacher and art teacher will collaborate on this phase. Books will be published in the school publishing center. Finished books will be presented to the Granby Library.

August 2003 and beyond--It is our hope that the current and future students of Granby School will be able to use our picture books to learn more about Worthington and what it has been like to grow up in Worthington since its beginning. We believe that the third graders will be able to use this as a resource in their study of Worthington.

4. Evaluation

We will determine if the project was successful by reading the completed books and evaluating individual student's growth in writing and researching skills. We will do a pre and post assessment on the students' knowledge of the history of Worthington.

5. Personnel

Four teachers will be involved in organizing and implementing the project: sixth grade teachers Tina Swearengin, Megan Wood, and Kristen Watson, and art teacher Andrea Jewett at Granby Elementary. We will need some parents to volunteer to help with the field trip and bind books.

6. Budget

materials: (all prices come from the Charles Ritter Company catalog)

<u>When I Was Young in the Mountains</u>	\$20
paper (10 pages each of white, plus four packs of assorted)	\$40
watercolor pencils (5 sets at \$12 a set)	\$60
note cards (16 packs at \$2.53/pack)	\$40
computer paper for rough drafts (500 sheets)	\$15
laminating film	\$100
bindings for books	\$29

transportation:

2 buses at 2 hours each at \$30/hour	\$120
fees for Orange Johnson House (80 students and 8 adults)	\$184

time to develop the project:

three hours for four teachers at in service rate of \$16 per hour	<u>\$192</u>
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Total **\$800**

The students will also be able to use a variety of art materials we currently have at Granby School, such as scissors, glue, wallpaper scraps, markers, crayons, and paint. We will also need to rely on volunteers to help us with the field trip, speakers, and binding the books.