



NOBODY'S SECRET: ART AND SCIENCE THROUGH POETRY

ENRICHMENT FALL/WINTER PROJECT 2013-14 MENU

Pick one of these project idea options to build your Essential Question and your Secondary Questions around. This Project Menu is meant to give you many different options for project ideas inspired by Michaela MacColl's novel *Nobody's Secret*.

Your goal: Develop a creative, unique product using the ideas from one of the three Project Menu options. Your product will be based on your Essential Question and your research findings of your Secondary Questions. Create a product that interests *you*! If you love to write- develop a writing project! If you are an artist- use the artistic style you love the most! If you love history- create a research project! If you love to interview people and get fired up about issues of "right and wrong"- create a project about social justice!

Your challenge: Using the skills of a higher order thinker- connect the type of project you like to create to one of these three project types and your Essential Question!

Your final product that you bring to our Project Showcase (the date is still to be determined- but be thinking early January 2014) will consist of three parts:

- ✓ Your finished creative product
- ✓ Your completed Project Handbook
- ✓ Your Essential Question

Good luck! I can't wait to see what you create!!



PROJECT OPTION #1: ALL ABOUT EMILY DICKINSON!

Develop your Essential Question, your Secondary Questions, and your creative product around the poet herself- Emily Dickinson! There are many different ways in which you could achieve this. Here are some suggestions and ideas. You are not limited to these ideas, but make sure you can explain and defend your project choice if you use an idea other than these:

- ❖ In-depth biographical research of Emily Dickinson, her life, her family, and the events that shaped her life as a writer
- ❖ In-depth research of a topic relevant to Emily Dickinson's life and time in which she lived: history of Amherst, MA; importance of religion in her life; the role of women during her lifetime, etc.
- ❖ Analysis and study of Emily Dickinson's poetry: what makes it so unusual? What are topics and themes she wrote about? How can understanding her poetry be made simpler? How does her work compare to other famous poets living during her lifetime? How about comparing her to your favorite poet? Can you connect her poetry with other art forms: music, dance, visual art, movies?
- ❖ Artistic project inspired by the poetry of Emily Dickinson: short stories, a novel, a poetry collection, visual art, a movie, dance, etc.
 - For a good example of this type of project, read the book *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson (it's in the Illing library!); it's a novel inspired by Dickinson's poem that starts with the line "Hope is the thing with feathers..."

Some basic research resources to help you get started with this project option:

Emily Dickinson Museum site-

<http://emilydickinsonmuseum.org/>

Before I Got My Eye Put Out: The Poetry of Emily Dickinson- A Video Crash Course with John Green-

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4WwhOdk_Eg

The Poetry Foundation's Emily Dickinson pages-

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/emily-dickinson>

Amherst College Digital Collection- handwritten letters and poems by Emily Dickinson:

<https://acdc.amherst.edu/browse/#collection/collection:ed>

Boston Public Library Collection- handwritten letters from Dickinson to T.W. Higginson:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/boston_public_library/sets/72157604466722178/detail/



PROJECT OPTION #2: MURDER 'N MYSTERIES!

Develop your Essential Question, your Secondary Questions, and your creative product around one of the coolest elements in *Nobody's Secret*- the fact that it is a murder mystery! There are many different ways to approach murder mysteries with this project option. Here are some ideas, but you are not limited to only these suggestions:

- ❖ Compare *Nobody's Secret* to other murder mysteries: how are the mysteries set up? Does the hero always solve the mystery? How do other mysteries set up the crime and the suspects? Are the stories built the same way or differently?
- ❖ Explore the structure of a good mystery in relation to *Nobody's Secret*: how are the “puzzle pieces” of the mystery put together to create a story? What basic structures to murder mysteries follow? How do some of the great mystery writers

“build” their mysteries? How can you make a mystery solvable without being obvious or being unfair to the reader?

- ❖ Create a murder mystery using a real historical figure, like Michaela MacColl did with Emily Dickinson and *Nobody's Secret*. Do you want the historical figure to be an adult? A teenager? A child? How will your mystery accurately show an example of life during the time period in which your character lived?

Some basic research resources to help you get started with this project option:

Writing Teen Novels- Creating a Teenage Sleuth Character-

<http://writingteennovels.com/category/writing-teen-mystery-novels/>

Go Teen Writers- 7 Ways to Add Mystery to your Plot-

<http://goteenwriters.blogspot.com/2012/11/7-ways-to-add-mystery-to-your-plot.html>

Scholastic Mystery Writing Tutorial with Joan Lowery Nixon-

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mystery/index.htm>

WritingWorld.com Beginnings, Middles, and Ends: Crafting the Mystery-

<http://www.writing-world.com/mystery/opening.shtml>

Mystery Fiction for Middle School and High School Students-

<http://www.hudsonlibrary.org/Teen/mysterybooklist.pdf>



PROJECT OPTION #3: SCIENCE AND THE NATURAL WORLD!

Develop your Essential Question, your Secondary Questions, and your creative product using botany and other ways science is explored in *Nobody's Secret*. There are many,

many directions to go in with this project option. Here are a few examples, but if you have another idea that can be developed just as strongly, then you should go for it:

- ❖ Research and/or create an herbarium like Emily Dickinson and the other girls in her school did in *Nobody's Secret*. How can you go about constructing an herbarium? Why are they useful? How many different kinds of herbariums can you create? How can scientists use herbariums to study the natural world?
- ❖ Poison-making using naturally occurring poisonous plants is key to the events of *Nobody's Secret*. Explore poisonous plants around the world; the history of poison and poison-making; assassins and assassinations throughout history that involved poisonous plants.
- ❖ Emily Dickinson used science and, in particular, her observations of the natural world as inspiration for a great deal of her poetry. Use her nature-themed poems as the starting point for your own scientific investigation into specific items or events found in nature.

Some basic research resources to help you get started with this project option:

Harvard Digital Library: Emily Dickinson's Herbarium (created at age 14)-

<http://pds.lib.harvard.edu/pds/view/4184689?n=66&printThumbnails=no>

Poets.org Victorian Treasure: Emily Dickinson's Herbarium article-

<http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/21410>

National Geographic Pick Your Poison: 12 Toxic Tales-

<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/health-and-human-body/human-body/poison-toxic-tales/#page=1>