### Extension Menu

**G3:M2B:U1-3**

#### Learning about Culture through Literary and Informational Texts

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<th>Activity</th>
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<td><strong>Create 3 postcards from 3 major cities in the United States.</strong> You choose the cities, what would you see in the city, main attractions, and other facts important to its location. Draw a picture on the front of the postcard and a write note to your teacher on the other side about what you learned about that city.</td>
<td>RI 3.5, 3.6</td>
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<td><strong>Read another Magic Treehouse book and compare it to <em>Dragon of the Red Dawn</em>. Create two drawings to show your favorite character from the Magic Treehouse books. On each drawing, place the character in his/her setting from that book, surround the picture with a collage of words that represent the different story elements. (character, setting, plot)</strong></td>
<td>RL 3.3 &amp; RL 3.9</td>
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<td><strong>Choose 2 different countries that you would like to visit. Find two books about the countries of your choice in your school library that teach you about customs and traditions for that country (except Japan.) Choose one country and create an informational text book page with pictures and writing. Be sure to use the text features you have learned about!</strong></td>
<td>RI 3.2, 3.5, 3.7 &amp; W 3.2, 3.8</td>
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<td><strong>Read the book “Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog” and/or “Thea Stilton and the Cherry Blossom Adventure” (both are available at KCLS) and create a comic strip with at least 4 panels summarizing your favorite part of the story.</strong></td>
<td>RL 3.3, 3.7 W 3.3a &amp; b</td>
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<td><strong>FREE CHOICE</strong> <strong>Teacher Approval Required</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Create a PowerPoint presentation depicting the different settings for <em>Dragon of the Red Dawn</em>. Describe how the characters act in each setting, how does the setting affect their actions? You may copy pictures from the internet onto your PowerPoint presentation to represent the different settings.</strong></td>
<td>RL 3.3</td>
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<td><strong>HAIKU – PART 1</strong> Research the history of the haiku poem. Make a poster that details your research. Include three examples of this type of poem that you create in HAIKU – PART 2. Be sure to include your illustrations.</td>
<td>RI 3.5, 3.7 &amp; W 3.3</td>
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<td><strong>HAIKU – PART 2</strong> In the story “<em>Seattle Scientist Crafts Haikus...</em>” (attached) we see an example of how to write a Haiku about a specific topic. Use what you have learned about Japanese culture from the books <em>Dragon of the Red Dawn</em> and <em>Japan</em> to write several Haiku Poems to include on the poster you created in HAIKU – PART 1. Be sure to illustrate your Haikus.</td>
<td>RI 3.5 &amp; W 3.4</td>
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Revised 9/13/17
Seattle scientist crafts haiku and artwork about climate change
By Seattle Times, adapted by Newsela staff
01/20/2014

SEATTLE — The language of the United Nation's latest report on climate change is not what you'd call poetic. The report is crammed with complicated details about greenhouse gases, rising sea levels and our atmosphere. And it's not only hard to understand. It's also very, very long: some 2,200 pages.

Seattle ocean scientist Gregory Johnson helped write one of the chapters. But even he was having a hard time taking in the whole thing. So Johnson decided to simplify the report down to its most important points.

Johnson did this by turning to a centuries-old Japanese art form: haiku. Then, he added his own watercolor paintings.

With a bit of encouragement, Johnson decided to post his finished booklet on the Web. It is now getting a lot of attention.

“I was surprised that as many people responded as positively as they did,” said Johnson. “It’s been tweeted a thousand times, or something.”

Report's 19 Main Points ...
Online commenters have written verses to go along with it. Several teachers plan to use the booklet in their classrooms. And fans want to translate Johnson’s work into all sorts of languages: Hindi, Italian, German, French and Luxembourgish. The last language is spoken in the tiny country of Luxembourg.

Blogger Chris Mooney praised the way Johnson summed up climate change. He did it, Mooney said, in an “understandable, and even moving, way.”
The original U.N. report has 19 main points. For each of these, Johnson wrote a haiku. Take global warming’s effects on ice and snow. Some scientists say that when we burn things like gas it heats up the earth. And that is causing ice in the Arctic to melt. The report spends more than 100 pages on that subject. But Johnson boils it down to 17 syllables:

*Glaciers and ice sheets*
*melt worldwide, speed increasing*
*Sea ice, snow retreat*

Johnson also illustrates the poems with simple watercolors. One, for example, shows a sunlit iceberg. Another shows smokestacks and a swing set on a grassy hill. The second goes with the verse:

*Forty years from now*
*children will live in a world*
*shaped by our choices*

Haiku is a traditional Japanese poem with three lines. It uses 5- and 7-syllable lines in a familiar 5-7-5 pattern. Haiku might seem like an odd choice for a scientist. But Johnson was already well acquainted with it. For the past few years, he’s been composing Facebook posts in haiku. He sees this as a way to keep his messages short and positive.

... In 17-Syllable Poems
Like most scientists Johnson’s work life is all about complexity. That’s part of what made the haiku exercise appealing.

He never intended anyone except family and friends to see the finished product. But they were impressed with what he'd done. They urged him to let the public see it too. Johnson was unsure, and a little nervous.

“It took me a little while to get up the courage to put this out there,” he said. Eventually, he let the Seattle environmental group Sightline post the booklet on its website. It went up last month. Within two weeks, the post had received nearly 40,000 hits.

"Greg got the facts in there,” said Sightline's Anna Fahey. But at the same time, she said, his post was moving. He "made this beautifully elegant and emotional case for why it matters.” The Sightline post has already attracted comments from those who don't believe in global warming. But, Johnson prefers not to argue about it. In any case, his own mind is made up. His work has made him convinced: Some changes caused by global warming can be observed now. And more are certain in the future.
Haiku and watercolors won’t change that. Nor are they likely to change the minds of those who don’t believe in global warming. But, Johnson said, perhaps his booklet will make a few people take a look at the U.N. report. That, he said, would make him happy.