

Name _____
Teacher-- _____
Class _____ Period _____
Date _____

Boy on a Wooden Box
by Leon Leyson

Assignment: Multi-Genre Writing Portfolio Project

Due: Rough Draft—_____ (end of period—Character Analysis Sheet and beginning draft of essay)

Portfolio Draft—_____ (I will want to see drafts of most of the pieces)

Final Portfolio—_____

Description of assignment: This assignment has **several** parts. There are some parts that are required and some that you will have a choice on what you want to create.

____ **Part I—Hero Analysis Essay--Required** (should be approx. two pages typed)

- Analyze **one** individual from WWII and identify whether or not they are a hero.
- Begin your essay with a well-developed introduction. Your last sentence in the first paragraph should be your thesis statement that explains the **Who/What, So what, and Why it's important**. Don't forget to identify the name and role your individual had during WWII in the introduction somewhere.
- Thoroughly discuss this individual— Use the Individual Analysis Sheet handout to develop your essay (that is basically your rough draft).
- **Support** your major points with statements/quotes from at least 3-5 sources. Be sure you put in parenthetical citations--author's last name and page number in parenthesis inside the period.
- You must include a work cited page at the end of your paper. Remember the title of the work cited entry is **Works Cited** (do not put it in bold)—figure out the correct entry. You have a resource to help with this.

____ **Part II—Character Sketch—Required** (should be approx. one page typed)

- Write a character sketch about an individual you know or admire.
- Reveal the key elements of that individual's personality.
- Think of someone that you know very well. This person **does not** have to be anything like the individual you analyze for your hero essay. They could be the exact opposite or they could have similarities—but you will need to make a connection to your individual in some way.
- Present a vivid picture of the personality and physical appearance of the person.
- Give a strong impression of the person—you might include dialogue you have had with this person, describe their mannerisms or favorite sayings—try to show the reader the person rather than tell.
- Reveal your response to this person.
- Place the person in surroundings that help readers understand him or her.
- Compare/contrast this individual to the individual you analyzed in your hero essay.

____ **Part III—Process Essay--Required** (should be at least 2 paragraphs)

- Explain your personal opinion of this novel. What was it like reading a novel that utilizes differing languages? What was easy or difficult?
- What did you think of how he shared his life story? How would it be written differently if it were to revolve around events that occurred in today's society?
- Why do you think I chose this particular novel to read?
- What did you struggle with in doing this project/or what did you find enjoyable about this project?
- Which kind of literary analysis did you enjoy more—analysis to theme (*Watsons Go to Birmingham-- 1963*) or analysis to character? Why?

Part IV—Design a Cover Page—Required

- Design a cover page that depicts a connotation or example of the word **Hero** as it is reflected in the novel. Think of all the different ways individuals from the memoir are heroes and think about how their actions show it.
- Illustration can be hand drawn or a printed picture.
- Your cover page must have an MLA heading in the upper left corner or on the back side.

Part V—News Item—Required (Choose ONE of the following) (various lengths required)

- Write a feature story about your individual—this is a news article that focuses on who this person is and what they do (should be at least 2 paragraphs)
- Write a straight news article that might appear in a local paper about your individual—relate it to an incident that occurred. (should be at least 2 paragraphs)
- Interview your individual and write up the interview. What would you ask him/her and what do you think they would answer? (must have at least 5 in-depth questions and answers) **This is a fictitious interview. You are not expected to actually interview them.**

Part VI—Letter/Journal/Email Writing--Required (Choose TWO of the following) (various lengths required)

- Write a letter your individual would send to someone important in his/her life. (should be 2/3 short paragraphs)
- Write a letter your individual would receive from someone important. (Should be 2/3 short paragraphs)
- Write two journal or diary entries for your individual—relate them to an incident in the novel.
- Write an email message they might send to someone in the book if there had been email then.
- Write an email message they would receive from someone in the book if there had been email then.
- Write three text messages and responses they might send back and forth to a friend.
- Write a thank you note for a present this character might receive or a kind deed they performed (you can make up the present or deed or use something from the novel)
- Create two postcards your individual would send or receive.

Part VII—Lists/Notes--Required (Choose THREE of the following)

- Make a list of his/her favorite things--explain why you selected these things (minimum of 5).
- Make a list of things that make him/her angry--explain why you selected these things (minimum of 5).
- Make a list of things that make him/her sad--explain why you selected these things (minimum of 5).
- Make a list of things that make him/her happy--explain why you selected these things (minimum of 5).
- List what this person might carry in his/her pocket, purse, or wallet--explain why you selected these things (minimum of 5)
- Create three separate six word memoirs for individuals you have explored throughout this project.

Part VIII—Hero Analysis Creative Application (Choose ONE of the following)

- Create a biographical poem for your character--template will be provided.
- Create a propaganda poster that is indicative of both the characteristics of your individual and is authentic to propaganda pieces of the time.
- Select a passage from the novel or your research on the person from history and create a Found Poem.
- Create a Cento Poem--directions will be provided.
- Create a unit word art--directions will be provided.
- Create a Blackout Poem--directions will be provided.

Format—this will vary for each piece of writing.

- **Table of Contents**—include this immediately following the cover page. ALL final drafts must be included at the beginning of your portfolio, and ALL rough drafts at the end.
- **All essays must be in MLA Format** (Part I, II, and III—proper heading, title, page #'s, double spaced if typed. Use the MLA Format resource sheet.)

- **News items** should be in justified columns. **Interview** written like an interview. Question: Answer:
- **Letters** can be handwritten or computer generated depending on the formality of the letter.
- **Texts/emails** should be typed and look like an email message or use text lingo.
- **Thank you notes** should be handwritten and decorated like a card.
- **Lists** can be NEATLY handwritten or typed.

Character Sketch at a Glance: You might want to use a web prewriting strategy to brainstorm for your character sketch.

**person's actions
and speech**

mannerisms

of person

**physical
description**

main

impression of subject

surroundings

**writer's
feelings about person**

person

**other people's
reaction to the**