

Historical Fiction
Language Arts/Social Studies Unit
Mary Reger

Lesson 6

Essential Questions: How can we learn about peoples' lives from the past? Why do people keep journals and diaries? The objective of this lesson is to have the students get to know a real person from the past by reading pages from a diary, looking at pictures, and artifacts and then to write a diary page as if they were that person.

Enduring Understanding: The students will learn a brief history of Zay Wright through her journal pages, photos, and a brief oral history of her told by the teacher. Following a rubric, students will be able write a page in their journal as if they were Zay.

Assessment: Each student will write a page in their journal as if they were Zay Wright. They will be graded from the "Zay Wright Journal Rubric".

Materials:

- ["Photos of Zay Wright"](#)
- ["Zay Wright's Diary Pages"](#)
- ["Brief History of Zay Wright"](#)
- Writing Journals
- ["Zay Wright Journal Rubric"](#)

Suggested Procedures:

It is suggested this lesson be completed in one day in small groups of 6-8 students.

1. Write "Diary" on the board. Have the students tell what a diary is. List reasons why people keep diaries and journals.
2. Hand out pages of Zay Wright's Journal to each student. Have them read through the diary page.
3. On chart paper write these questions.
 - Who is writing this diary?
 - When is it taking place?
 - Where is it taking place?
 - What events happen?
 - What descriptions are there?
 - How does the author feel?
4. Discuss the questions briefly and then have them read the diary page again. Assign them to write these questions in their Writing Journals and answer them.

5. Next show pictures of Zay and read the brief history of Zay Wright.
6. Hand out the “Zay Wright Journal Rubric” to each student. Tell them they are going to become Zay and they are going to write a page in their journal as if they were Zay. Have them follow the rubric.
7. When they are done they will share their entry with the group.
8. The teacher will grade their journal page according to the rubric.