**Newspaper/Magazine/Blog (etc.) Assignment: Teacher’s Notes**
Adapted by Sharon Selby from page 38 Ready-to-Go Genre Book Reports © Susan Ludwig, Scholastic Teaching Resources Time Capsule

This assignment is appropriate for students in grades 7-9, and can be further adapted for older or younger readers. For younger grades, listening to the teacher read the novel aloud then creating a single newspaper article on their favourite event works very well. For very young readers, you may consider brainstorming events and working on a timeline to create a class story. For older readers, deeper reflections connecting major and minor events to themes of memory, storytelling, and identity will allow students to fulfil more sophisticated outcomes and objectives, for their articles as well as for their additional features (see associated lesson on themes).

Objective:

In small groups, students will work together to create a newspaper, magazine, blog (etc). Together, students will decide on a name for their newspaper, magazine, etc. They will also decide on the content of their news forum. Each student will be responsible for writing two articles based on the events described in *The Storyteller’s Daughter: Where the Story Begins*. Each student will also be responsible for providing **at least** one additional feature such as an advice column, horoscope column (each prediction must relate to the novel), interview with one or more of the characters, crossword puzzle using vocabulary from the text, cartoons (based on events or imagined using characters), advertisements, letters to the editor, obituaries, etc.

Learning Outcomes:

* **Develop** newunderstandings through generating new text and responding to the novel
* **Demonstrate** an understanding of professional forms of writing specific to their chosen medium
* **Choose and adapt** specific forms to match content, audience, and purpose
* **Experiment with language and form** to develop dynamic self-expression
* **Acknowledge** the value of others’ ideas and opinions in exploring and extending personal interpretations and viewpoints as students work together to create their news forum

Begin by reading aloud short news articles to give students an idea of their purpose and style.

* Write the following questions on the board, and explain that an article should answer all of them: Who? What? When? Where? Why?
* Challenge students to underline the parts of the sample articles that answer these questions. Point out that they can usually find the answers at the beginning of an article. Ask students what additional information or details the reporter included. Look for direct quotations. Discuss the writing style of news articles, and have students notice that the sentences are usually succinct and to the point.
* Explain that each students will choose two exciting or intriguing events from the novel and write a newspaper article about each one. Students will answer the five questions (who, what, where, when, why) in their articles and then provide additional details, such as quotations, observations, and other details.
* Look at examples of headlines and then have the students write a headline for each of their articles.
* Show the students examples of other features that appear in newspapers, magazines, and blogs (see the list given in the objective). Each student will create one additional feature; as a group they will ensure that there are no duplicate features.
* After the students have written rough drafts of both articles, they will edit their work and write their final drafts. In their groups, the students will organize the layout of their news forum. The final product may be in hardcopy or presented online.
* Set up a newsstand in your classroom with the newspapers or magazines that students created, and create a forum to view any online work. Encourage visitors and class members to read the works on display. You might have students present their work to the class.

Additional Resources:

Creating a Classroom Newspaper <http://nieonline.com/miami/downloads/programs/CreatingAClassroomNewspaperNAA.pdf>

Teacher’s Guide Young Reader Services
<http://www.ecpnie.com/guides/Booklet.pdf>