


## Social Injustice

Historical Fiction Inspires  
Social Action

*Presented by the Narragansett Pier Middle School:  
Students in Mrs. Jennifer Loisel's class*







**ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

How can we come to understand social issues in our own community and what can we do to address/respond to these issues appropriately?

**HISTORICAL FICTION TEXTS**

- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Once* by Morris Gleitzman
- *The Stone Goddess* by Minfong Ho
- *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Ringside, 1925* by Jen Bryant
- *Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix
- *Dash* by Kirby Larson
- *Breaking Stalin's Nose* by Eugene Yelchin
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne



**HOLOCAUST SPEAKER**  
Mr. Len Newman

"One thing I learned from Mr. Newman's presentation is that you should speak up whenever you see injustice and stop it."

"I learned that people, like Mr. Newman's father, even after they had gone through a terrible, awful time, can turn their life around and make the best of it, like his father did..."

"Something I learned was that no matter how tough times are you can always find the courage in your heart to fight through it."

"I learned that no matter how much you think you know about someone or something you never know the full story."



**Learn from the past and work to create a better future...**

### PROJECT GUIDELINES


**Assignment:** For this project students worked in groups to address a social issue in the community. (The community could be the school community, the town of Narragansett, or the state of Rhode Island.) Students researched this issue and then worked together to make a plan to address the issue in some way.

**Steps/Guidelines:**


- Brainstorm
- Pre-search (at least 3 topics)
- Project Proposal
- Student-Created Rubric
- Funds Request
- Development of Project: research, written/visual portions, action, reflection

### BRAINSTORM


MODERN SOCIAL ISSUES



**WELCOME**



Est. 1987 - Peace Dale RI



**STOP BULLYING**

**STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.**

- Homelessness
- Poverty
- Bullying
- Domestic violence
- LGBTQ rights
- Workers' rights
- Gender equality/Equal pay
- Animal abuse/Animal rights
- Acceptance and understanding of students with special needs

### PRE-SEARCH

| Topic:   | Focus Community:                | Why we are interested:                            | Pre-search:   | Is there enough information?: |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------|
| Employees Rights   | Narragansett/RI                 | Relates to book <i>Uprising</i>                   | -looked at Dept. of Labor and Training laws   | no                            |
| Segregation Prevention                                   | New England                     | We believe all people should be treated equally.  | -New England has 4 of the top segregated areas for students                           | no                            |
| Acceptance/ Understanding of Students with Special Needs | Narragansett Pier Middle School | We want to know what we can change in our school. | -Best Buddies connects individuals with special needs and others to build friendships | yes                           |

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

**Topic:**

**Acceptance/Understanding**

**of Students with**

**Special Needs**

- Project Description
- Goals
- Audience
- Materials/Supplies
- Group responsibilities
- Action steps

### STUDENT-CREATED RUBRIC & FUNDS REQUEST

#### RUBRIC

- Students created the rubric
- Refer back to rubric to monitor progress

#### FUNDS REQUEST

- \$500 grant
- Groups applied for money using a Google Form

### DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT

- Contacted NPS special education teacher/set up meeting
- Spoke with representative from Best Buddies RI
- Created slideshow to propose idea to school principal
- Presented to principal for approval
- Planned first event
- Created matching survey

## PIER PALS

Our First Event



### Tie-Dye Event



PBL

**NEXT STEPS**

- Pairing buddies
- Planning events
- Working with Best Buddies
- Reflection