***Children of the River***

Project Information Sheet

* **Journal Entry #1:** In many cultures, prearranged marriages are perfectly normal. It seems strange to us, but many girls throughout the world have their lifetime mates chosen for them by their family. Write one paragraph from Uncle Naro’s point of view that details the reasons that a prearranged marriage is better than the American way of marrying for love. Then write a paragraph from Sundara’s point of view describing the benefits of choosing your own marriage partner. In a third paragraph, share your own ideas about prearranged marriages.
* **Journal Entry #2:** Throughout the book, Sundara was constantly torn between the American and the Cambodian cultures. Discuss the differences in the two cultures and the feelings that Sundara had regarding each culture. (Do not use the custom of having the family choose who you must marry.)
* **Journal Entry #3:** After Sundara tells Jonathon that Chamroeun is dead, she says, “We think of life more like a river. Think of it that way, maybe you right I have no choice. On a river it is not so simple as just choose which way to go. On a river we try to steer a good course, but all the time we getting swept along by a force greater than ourselves.” Write a description of Sundara’s life as a river. Consider these questions while you write. How was her life like a river? Is it fast or slow? Is it deep or shallow? Does it have waterfalls or rapids? Which streams feed into it? How does rain affect her river?
* **Timeline:** Create a timeline of the events in Sudara’s life.
  + Using Word, Publisher, or Prezi, create your timeline. Use 2 or 3 papers if using Word or Publisher. Begin with her life at home with her parents. Be sure to include historical events during the Vietnam War that affected her. You must include 25 entries of significant events in Sundara’s life. For at least five of the entries include a picture to symbolize the event. Be sure to write a sentence or two describing the event and naming the approximate time, day, stage of her life, etc.

**OR**

* + **Project:** An icosahedrons is a twenty-sided three-dimensional figure. You will use your icosahedron to retell the plot of Children of the River. Decide on twenty scenes from the book that will best represent the plot of the story. Beginning at the top of the icosahedron, the triangle need to be designed and ordered to tell the entire plot. The first five triangular pictures need to be drawn with a vertex of the triangle at the top of the picture. The next ten pictures need to alternate one picture with a vertex at the top of the picture and the next with a side of the triangle at the top of the picture. The last ten pictures need to be with one side of the triangle at the top. Once the pictures are drawn or formatted on Publisher and colored, cut out the circles. Fold each circle on the triangle lines. To form the top of the icosahedron, glue the first five triangles together. Assemble the middle ten triangles alternating one triangle with the vertex at the top and then one with a side of triangle at the top. Then form the bottom by gluing the last five triangles together. Finally, glue the top to the middle then the bottom to the middle. Insert a string at the top so the icosahedron can be hung.
* **Map:** Complete the map activity handout.
* **History Connection #1:** Research Angel Island and Ellis Island. Design and create a PowerPoint presentation or Prezi comparing the two islands. You will need to complete five slides for each island, ten total. Each slide should include information about the island including such things as number of immigrants, nationalities, procedures, rules for immigration, etc. Each slide must also include pictures and transitions. **Remember to cite your sources!!**
* **History Connection #2:** Research the life in Cambodia. Design and create a PowerPoint or Prezi presentation using the facts that you find. You will need to complete 10 total. Each slide should include information about the life in Cambodia including such things as the food they eat, housing, clothing, transportation, language, government, etc. Each slide must also include pictures and transitions. **Remember to cite your sources!!**
* **Book Summary and Review - IMovie:** **(Individually or as a group of 2-3)** Using IMovie or another program, create a video summary of your book. Be sure to include the literary elements that are used in book projects: plot, book review, characters, conflict, etc. You can recreate a scene (acting), use paper objects (Paper Slide Video), use music, etc. Be creative. Video must be at least 3 min. long.