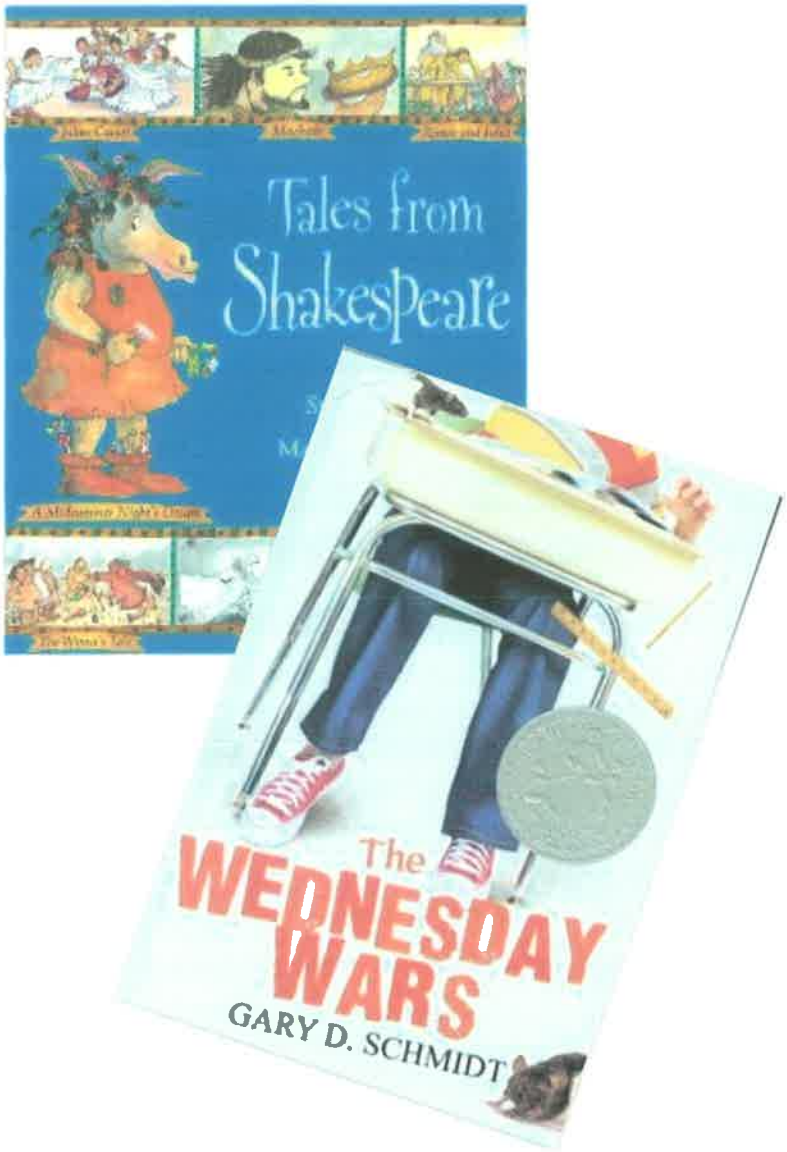

Classic Connections

Wednesday Wars & Shakespeare

Cheryl Sloan, Youth Services Librarian, Charlotte Public Library & Heidi Huestis, Teacher Librarian, Charlotte Central School

The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
Tales from Shakespeare: Seven Plays presented by Marcia Williams

Wednesday Wars & Shakespeare

Day 1

- Read September – November in Wednesday Wars
- Introduce the digital platform you will use for student writing
- Overview of Shakespeare

Discussion/Writing Prompt:

THINK ABOUT IT

Examine a variety of photos below which are clues to the life, times and writings of Shakespeare. What do you think of as you peruse them? What do you know about the playwright Shakespeare? What plays of his have you attended or do you know about through other experiences?

Day 2

- Read December – January in Wednesday Wars
- Share images that provide the setting for Wednesday Wars
    - The Launch of Apollo 4
    - Pentagon Protests
    - Jesse Owens
    - Mickely Mantle's 500th home run

Discussion/Writing Prompts:

Images are powerful. Write about or discuss one of the images or videos we shared in a character's voice. Perhaps you are Heather reacting to the Pentagon Protests. Perhaps you are Mr. Hoodhood reacting to the same thing. How would your reactions be different?

The months of December and January have a lot of action! Holling finds out that heroes can come into your life in many different ways. Choose ***one*** *of the following prompts to respond to.*

1. Holling has his big performance on stage as Ariel, the warrior. How do you feel about Holling's parents not watching his performance? How does Holling seem to feel? Use a specific example from the book to support your answer.

2.Holling and Danny meet the great Mickey Mantle in December. What do Danny's actions during the incident at the Baker Sporting Emporium tell you about him? What do you think Holling means by this quote? "When gods die, they die hard" (p93).

3. Soaring onstage vs. soaring across an intersection. Explain Holling's allusion (a reference to people, places, or literary works) to Macbeth (pgs 128 & 129).

Day 3

- Read February – March in Wednesday Wars
- Shakespearean Insults
- Highlight plays included so far in the story, particularly *The Merchant of Venice*
- Podcasts

Podcast Acitivites:

Don't Insult Me!

Shakespeare knew the true art of using insult. Watch this TedEducation overview of his ability to use insults to enhance his plays; afterwards, you will work with a partner on this activity.

62 Insults is another Youtube preview for you about Shakespeare's word play. Check it out.

Work with your partner to create some of your own!

The Merchant of Venice

Work with a partner to record a page from the illustrated and abbreviated version of Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice.

Day 4

- Finish Wednesday Wars
- Art Day
- Exit Cards & Self-Assessment Rubrics

For Questions or support, please contact:

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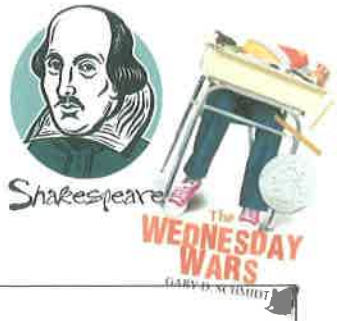
Wednesday Wars Meets Shakespeare Self Assessment

Use this rubric to help you keep track of how you are doing throughout the week.

Over the course of the week, I was most like the following Wednesday Wars character:

	Doug Swieteck's Brother Doesn't try, saves his best efforts to make life difficult for others.	**Doug Swieteck** Has good intentions, but doesn't always follow through. Can be a distraction to others.	**Heather Hoodhood** Mostly does what is asked of her, but also goes her own way sometimes. Doesn't always think about others.	**Holling Hoodhood** Always figures out a way to do what is asked of him. Thinks about others.
Readings & Discussions	I didn't even try.	I skimmed the reading and had a difficult time participating in the discussions. My mind was elsewhere.	I mostly kept up with the reading, but I had a lot of other stuff going on. I really should have kept better notes so I could participate a bit more in the discussions.	I kept up with the reading really participated in the discussions. Holling would have been proud of me!
Writing	I didn't even try.	I didn't complete all the prompts, I forgot to pay attention to conventions and editing.	I completed all the prompts, but my writing was not as well thought out as it could have been.	I completed all the prompts. My writing was thoughtful and I accomplished the tasks. I used proper conventions and was careful to edit all of my work.
Activity Participation (podcasts, readalouds, etc.)	I didn't even try.	Working together? I wasn't so sure at all about these activities. I tried to do some of them, but think I was more of a distraction than a team player.	I did the work, but wondered what the point was. Even though I grumbled about it, I did what was asked of me and ended up having an ok time.	I willingly worked cooperatively with others to complete the activities and think I had a good time! I took pride in what we created together.
Artwork	I didn't even try.	I tried to create artwork that had some thoughtful connections but had a hard time since I didn't invest the effort from the beginning.	I created artwork that showed things that I think are interesting. Not all of them have a connection to readings and discussions.	I created artwork that showed what I have learned over the week. I made thoughtful connections to readings and discussions.



Wednesday Wars Meets Shakespeare Summer Reading Program Exit Card

"What I learned" 3 new things I learned this week because of the program...	
"What I wonder" At least one thing I wonder about because of what I learned...	
"Don't change" Things I liked about this program...	
"Take a look at" The program would work better for me if...	