



YALE NATIONAL INITIATIVE

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Curriculum Units by Fellows of the National Initiative
2013 Volume III: John L. Gaddis, Professor of History

Will They Remember Me? Finding Our Identity by Writing Memoirs and Biographies

Guide for Curriculum Unit 13.03.06, published September 2013
by Michelle Hilbeck

In this unit, sixth grade students will learn the writing process by studying and writing their own memoirs and biographies. Focusing on the Common Core Reading Informational Text and Writing Standards, students will first read an established author's personal narrative and biography to act as models for writing. Through the writing process, students will create their memoir about an incident that has brought about change in their life. Next, students will apply the principles of biography to become biographers and write their peer's biography. Finally, students will reflect on their memoir and their lives up until this point and work with their peer to identify their lasting identity. Students will determine what they truly want to be remembered for to help them create a remembrance statement to conclusion to their books.

(Developed for English/Language Arts, grade 6; recommended for English/Language Arts, grades 6-8)

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