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Georgia Performance Standards Framework for ELA Unit 3 – 8th Grade

Grade: 8
Topic: A Movie in Your Mind
Instructional unit: Persuasive Texts
Contributed By: Leeann Cornett, Angie Markham, Kathy Wood, Candy Alexander, Stephanie O’Sako

The task:
A critical skill for good readers is the ability to visualize. This skill is especially important for this unit as the performance task will call for them to persuade Stephen Spielberg to create a movie based on a short story.

Students will listen to the original radio broadcast of War of the Worlds by Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater, October 31, 1938. As the students listen to the broadcast, they are asked to illustrate what they hear. Illustrations will be posted in the room, leading to a discussion on how the illustrations are different based on the hearing the same story.

As an extension of this assignment, the teacher can show the 1950s movie version of War of the Worlds and compare their illustrations to the props used in the movie, which is generally deemed to be closest to the radio broadcast interpretation.

Focus Standard:
ELA8R1 The student demonstrates comprehension and shows evidence of a warranted and responsible explanation of a variety of literary and informational texts.
For literary texts, the student identifies the characteristics of various genres and produces evidence of reading that:
g. Analyzes and evaluates the effects of sound, form, figurative language, and graphics in order to uncover meaning in literature
h. Analyzes and evaluates how an author’s use of words creates tone and mood and provides supporting details from text.

ELA8LSV2 The student listens to and views various forms of text and media in order to gather and share information, persuade others, and express and understand ideas. The student will select and critically analyze messages using rubrics as assessment tools.
When responding to visual and oral texts and media (e.g., television, radio, film productions, and electronic media), the student:
a. Interprets and evaluates the various ways in which visual image makers (e.g., graphic artists, illustrators, news photographers) communicate information and affect impressions and opinions.

Circumstances of the assignment/Notes to the Teachers:
The teacher will need to secure a copy of the broadcast, which can be found when one does a search on www.google.com.