

Touching Spirit Bear Projects – Choose ONE

Assigned: 1/31/11 Due: 2/11/11

1. In the novel *Touching Spirit Bear* the setting plays a major role and even becomes part of the conflict. Create a model of the island where Cole Matthews is staying. Be sure to include the following as part of your model:

- * Cole's cabin (original burn site and cabin built by Cole) * Campfire ring
- * Ocean and Bay * River * Soaking pool with anger stick
- * Ancestor hill with ancestor rock * Fallen tree with bird nest * at.oow
- * Spirit Bear and other animals spotted by Cole * other locations/objects you think important

Attach a legend to your model with brief ^{sentences} describing the significance of each location To Cole Matthews.

2. In the novel *Touching Spirit Bear* the setting plays a major role and even becomes part of the conflict. Draw two maps depicting the important settings in the story. Include maps of Minneapolis and the areas in Alaska (Drake and the uninhabited island) where major book events occur. For the Minneapolis map include Cole's school, house, and the detention center as well as locations of the Circle Justice Meetings. For the map of Alaska, include Drake as well as an expanded view of Cole's Island, including the cabin, the original cabin site, the bay, ocean, site of the Spirit Bear attack and fallen tree, the river, soaking pool, rapids, and ancestor hill. Be sure to include a compass rose and legend. Include statements revealing why these locations are significant in Cole's life.

3. Create a stop-motion claymation (or other stop-motion objects) scene from the book that depicts a climactic moment in Cole's life. Be sure to add narration at some point in the video which explains the significance of the scene as it relates to the novel's theme.

4. Watch the movie *Spirit Bear*. Write a review of the film, being sure to address its appropriateness for middle-school audiences who have read the novel *Touching Spirit Bear*. See Ms. Stockton for directions for writing a review.

5. Observe an animal closely. Make up your own dance representing the animal. Have someone videotape your performance and bring it in to share with the class. Be sure to conclude the video by explaining what you learned (and how it is significant to your life) from the observing the animal and completing your dance. *You may do this with a partner (or two!) as long as everyone dances!*

6. Instead of the traditional essay, compose a photo essay and set it to music. Choose a theme or situation you feel strongly about from the novel. With your theme in mind, gather pictures, and video if you are brave, and set it to music that fits the theme. Think of this as a slide show set to music.

7. Create a totem pole. You may choose to depict the life of a character from the novel or you may choose to depict your own life. You must have at least 6 events/faces on the pole. You may either draw it on poster board, or create a model to bring to class. You are encouraged to research the Tlingit totem poles before creating yours. You might also reference the novel for ideas. You will also need to write a paragraph explaining your totem pole (what animals did you choose and why, whose story are you telling, etc). An excellent source for this project is available online at:

[http://www.rock-](http://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/teachers/stms/shorency/touchingspiritbear/Totem%20Pole%20Project%20pages/totempoles.htm#Internet_Resources)

[hill.k12.sc.us/teachers/stms/shorency/touchingspiritbear/Totem%20Pole%20Project%20pages/totempoles.htm#Internet_Resources](http://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/teachers/stms/shorency/touchingspiritbear/Totem%20Pole%20Project%20pages/totempoles.htm#Internet_Resources)

If you have trouble accessing the site, do a Google search : Totem Pole Treasure Hunt

8. Build three objects important in the novel. Attach a card to each explaining its significance to Cole and to the novel's theme. Please limit your objects in size so that they could all comfortably fit in a shoe box.

9. Visit the Spirit Bear Youth Coalition website. Create a powerpoint about this organization and share it with a group of people, like a elementary school class. Identify your audience before creating your powerpoint. <http://www.spiritbearyouth.org/>

10. Imagine what would have happened to Cole, his family, and community if he had declined to participate in Circle Justice. Write Cole's obituary describing the significant events in his life. You may choose that he lives a long or a short life; and that his life is largely positive and meaningful or negative and violent. Before writing, read several obituaries from a well-respected newspaper.

11. Create a series of five colored illustrations to compliment significant passages from the novel (e.g. "Life is a hotdog" "In death there was no control, no anger, no one to blame. No choices, no nothing. To be alive was to have choice. The power to choose was real power, not the fake power of making others afraid." P. 83 "Happiness, like anger, is also a habit." P. 146 "How much of the world did people miss because they were not calm enough, empty enough, to experience it?" p189) You may incorporate all of the illustrations, passages, **as well as any necessary explanations** into one poster if you prefer.

12. Write about Cole's experiences on the island from the Spirit Bear's point of view.

13. Make up your own project! You must submit your plan, in writing, to Ms. Stockton at least one week before the due date. She will sign your proposal if it's approved.