Task 2.C

**Create a Nursery Rhyme, Poem, or Song**

Standard:

1. The students will be able to identify and explain important events during the Middle Ages.

Task:

For thousands of years all types of people have been creating songs, poems, or even nursery rhymes as a way to tell their history. Even today we still sing songs and nursery rhymes that have their roots in historical events. Take for example the nursery rhyme, “Ring around the Rosie.” Today most people think that is just a song kids sing at playtime with their friends, but little do they know it’s a song about the Black Death. Let’s look at the words of the song so I can decipher them for you.

**ACTUAL NURSEY RHYME** **ACTUAL MEANING OF RHYME**

-The rosie red rings on the skin of a person who is infected with the Black Death.

-Posies are sweet smelling flowers people would stuff in their pocket to ward of the disease and smell

-Ashes sounds like a sneeze “Achoo! Achoo,” which was a common symptom of the disease.

-We all fall down meaning everyone dies!

**Ring around the Rosie,**

**A pocket full of posies,**

**Ashes! Ashes!**

**We all fall down!**

Now isn’t that an uplifting story? Aren’t you glad your parent had you sing about dead people when you were a little kid, and talk about a fun playground game!?!

**Your task for this assessment is to create a song, poem, or nursery rhyme about an event in the Middle Ages. It can be any event, even the black plague, but just needs to be different from the nursery rhyme above. The song, poem, or rhyme must…**

1. Identify the Medieval event that you are writing about.
2. Use historically accurate information.
3. Contain at least 8 lines.
4. Include a separate paragraph explaining each line of your song and how it connects to this time period in history.

**Example**

**JC**

He brought new ideas,

Many Romans did not want to hear,

Those who followed hid,

Many were caught and thrown to the lions,

This belief was in only 1,

As God’s son he was crucified for his actions,

His death only strengthened their beliefs.

**Poem explanation:**

My poem is about Jesus Christ and the new religious ideas he started to teach in the Roman Empire. Jesus taught that there was only 1 God, who loved us and wanted us to lead a good life to be able to join him in heaven when we die. At the time, Romans believed in mythology, many gods. The Romans thought that if they did not honor the gods they would be punished. Therefore, the Romans decided to persecute those who followed Jesus. Many Christians chose to practice their religion in secret in the catacombs. Many Christians were killed for their belief in Christianity. Jesus was crucified on the cross and as the story goes rose on the third day, which only made Christians beliefs stronger that he was really the son of God.

Rubric:

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| **Criteria** | **69 and below** | **70-79** | **80-89** | **90-100** |
| **Length** | Wrote 3 lines or less in the song, poem, or nursery rhyme  **AND/OR**  Event is not clearly identifiable | Wrote 4-5 lines in the song, poem, or nursery rhyme  **BUT**  Event is not clearly identifiable | Wrote 6-7 lines in the song, poem, or nursery rhyme  **AND**  Event is clearly identifiable | Wrote 8 or more lines in the song, poem, or nursery rhyme  **AND**  Event is clearly identifiable |
| **Historically Accurate** | The song, poem, or nursery rhyme has no historical accuracy | The song, poem, or nursery rhyme has little historical accuracy | The song, poem, or nursery rhyme is somewhat historically accurate | The song, poem, or nursery rhyme is historically accurate |
| **Explanation of each line** | Little to no explanation of lines written for the song, poem, or nursery rhyme | A vague explanation of each line written for the song, poem, or nursery rhyme | A clear explanation of each line written for the song, poem, or nursery rhyme | There is a clear explanation of each line of the song, poem, or nursery rhyme using specific details about the time in history |
| **Final Draft Quality** | 6 or more grammatical and spelling errors  **AND/OR**  Song, poem, or nursery rhyme is very difficult to read and written sloppily. | 4-5 grammatical and spelling errors  **AND/OR**  Song, poem, or nursery rhyme is difficult to read and written sloppily. | 2-3 grammatical and spelling errors  **AND**  Song, poem, or nursery rhyme is easy to read and written neatly or typed. | There are 0-1 grammatical and spelling errors  **AND**  Song, poem, or nursery rhyme is easy to read and written neatly or typed. |

Teacher Comments: **10% late grade reduction**

**5% off for missing Rubric**

**Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/400**