

Teacher Vision Grant 2020-21 Recap

For our Teacher Vision Grant, we have been able to purchase copies of novels that correspond to our fifth grade social studies standards. With the pandemic, and altered teaching methods, we purchased two copies of *Bud, Not Buddy* for each classroom and completed this novel as a read aloud. Students were able to identify with the main character, a boy around their age, and this brought the Great Depression to life for them. Being able to learn about significant events in history through a narrated tale that links to real life events has helped our students understand and retain this knowledge.

For the second half of the year, we are purchasing class sets of *A Night Divided* and *Refugee*. These books will be used in conjunction with the Cold War and Modern Times units in social studies. Each student will have a copy of the novel and we will be able to work on fluency and comprehension skills while covering the social studies standards. Again, these novels help the students see the world events through the eyes of a character they can relate to. This makes the information more applicable to them and makes the lessons more engaging. The students are able to make connections between the characters in the books and the historical events they are learning about. Without the novels, students can not see the value of the history lessons or understand what it was like to live during that specific time period. Adding in a good story with factual representation of events makes the lessons meaningful, engaging, and credible for our students.

Thank you for your support,

Rhonda Howell & Daniela Winkler

Merriwether Elementary School

Fifth Grade