Touching Spirit Bear Totem Pole Project

Name  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date due  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We will begin the year by reading the book Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelsen.   Cole Matthews, the main character, goes on a journey of self-discovery and ends up creating a totem pole to explain what he has learned about himself.

Each of you will create a totem pole about your life.  You will select animals that represent your past, present, and future.  You should have at least two animals for the past, present, and future.  You should use the handout about animal characteristics and meanings to help you decide which animals best represent you.  You may find pictures in magazines, the computer, or draw them yourself.  The base of the totem pole should represent your past, just like what you have done in the past is the basis for your present and your future.   Your future should be represented at the top of the totem pole.

  Not only will you create a totem pole, but you will write an explanation that shows us how those animals represent your past, your present, and your future.  Your explanation should demonstrate to us what that particular animal represents and how it connects to you.  Don’t just say “I chose a beaver because beavers are determined and I am determined.”   Give an example from something in your life that shows a time when you were very determined.  You should have a well-written paragraph for the past, present, and future.  Your paragraphs should have examples that help the reader see what you are talking about.  You should write a rough draft and make sure that you revise and edit your paragraphs before writing your final copy.  You may type the paragraphs but it is not required.  The writing makes up half of your grade for this project so make sure that you spend some quality time on your writing.

The construction of your totem pole is open to your creativity.  You may want to use something like an empty paper towel roll.  The actual totem pole is not as important as the thoughts behind it.  Make sure that you look over the rubric and see how the points are weighted.  You shouldn’t spend all of your time constructing an elaborate totem pole and then not spend time on the written part of the assignment.  You will share at least one aspect of your totem pole to the class on the day it is due.  Good luck and if you have any questions be sure to talk to me!

Totem Pole Rubric

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Points possible | Self evaluation | Peer evaluation | Teacher evaulation |
| Two animals representing your past  1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 10 |  |  |  |
| Two animals representing your present  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 10 |  |  |  |
| Two animals representing your future  1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   2.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | 10 |  |  |  |
| Written explanation of **past**  (includes examples and explanations of animals) | 15 |  |  |  |
| Written explanation of **present**  (includes examples and explanations of animals) | 15 |  |  |  |
| Written explanation of **future**  (includes examples and explanations of animals) | 15 |  |  |  |
| Creativity and construction of totem pole | 15 |  |  |  |
| Spelling and Grammar | 5 |  |  |  |
| Turned in on  time | 5 |  |  |  |
| Total Points | 100 |  |  |  |