

7th GRADE HISTORY/LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM:

Islam & the Middle East/Africa (Sept-Oct): the foundation and spread of Islam throughout the Middle East and Africa during Medieval history.

Literature Link:

The Bread Winner by Deborah Ellis (Hackmatack Award 2000). Optional summer reading, this is a historical fiction was inspired by an interview with a mother at a refugee camp, and is about a young girl growing up in Taliban Afghanistan. It is the first of a trilogy.

Seven Daughters and Seven Sons by Barbara Lovejoy (Booklist Best Book of the Year 1982). This historical fiction is about a young girl growing up in medieval Iraq and her adventures to daringly save her family from their destiny of poverty.

The Cow-Tail Switch and other West African Stories by Harold Courlander and George Herzog (Newbery Honor Book 1947). Various African short stories and folktales.

Writing Strand:

African Short Story Narrative Essay and Presentation

Visual/Performing Arts:

View “Osama”, the first movie released from Post-Taliban Afghanistan, based on The Bread Winner.

Create African masks to correlate with our short stories.

Social Justice:

Oppressive regimes and women’s rights worldwide.

Feudal Japan (Nov-Dec): the feudal society of Medieval Japan and its distinctive cultural aspects.

Literature Link:

The Ghost of Tokaido Inn by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler (Edgar Allen Poe Finalist 2001). This historical fiction is a mystery which takes place in Feudal Japan involving a Kabuki theatre troop and a young man who desperately wants to be a samurai, but was not born into that elite class.

Sadako & 1,000 Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr (Children’s Choice Award 1977). A short story based on the life of Sadako Sasaki, who died of leukemia as a result of the bombing of Hiroshima.

Writing Strand:

The Ghost of Tokaido Inn Response to Literature Essay

Write haiku (Japanese poem consisting of three lines, 17 syllables, and a theme about nature).

Visual/Performing Arts:

Create Kabuki theatre presentations of feudal Japanese society.

Create origami kimonos to display our haiku decorated with the theme of the haiku.

Social Justice:

Internment camps and atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Trimester Technology Strand:

Microsoft Publisher Advertisement (1st Trimester Book Report)

Medieval Europe (Jan-mid Feb): the role and impact of feudalism and Christianity in Europe during the Middle Ages.