

Activity

Students write a short story encompassing the events covered in *Takuwe* and based on the perspectives of Lakota narrators quoted in the exhibit.

Grades

6-12

Content Areas

English Language Arts

Skills

- Creative writing

Understandings

1. Mood and tone can be created when writing a short story from the perspective of the narrator.
2. Relevant details of historical events can be made into a short story from narrator's perspective.

Procedure

1. This activity is best done after students have become familiar with the material covered in *Takuwe*. This will give students a deeper, more accurate, and sensitive context for the stories they craft. At a minimum, students should be aware of the foundational understandings found at the beginning of this book, have read the panel texts, and been guided through the key concepts of each before proceeding with the activity.
2. Briefly review the elements of a short story with the class. Important elements to mention are plot, conflict, setting, characters, and theme.
3. Review how tone and mood are used and how they affect a story.
4. Each student will select a Lakota narrator from *Takuwe*. Some narrators are only quoted in one panel. This should be taken into consideration as students draft the plots of their stories. A story told from the perspective of someone only cited in the Assassination panel will more than likely have a plot focused on the assassination. Students should be guided in their selection of narrators with teacher discretion. Lakotas who are quoted throughout the exhibit, such as Joseph Horn Cloud, Dewey Beard and Mrs. Mousseau, may be better options for short stories encompassing multiple *Takuwe* events.
5. Students use their selected narrator's quotes, along with other information from the panels to create a short story of the relevant event told from the Lakota narrator's perspective. Students should also be encouraged to refer to the daily weather information in order to develop the tone and mood of the story.
6. There is a plethora of short story rubrics available online that may be appropriate for different classrooms and situations. Assessments of stories should evaluate students appropriate use of quotations, understanding of the historical events included in the story, correct grammar, and the development of tone and mood.