Historical Figures Come to Life
A Virtual Resource for Middle School Students
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Objectives:
• Identify significant events in the life of a notable historical figure
• Make inferences regarding the historical figure’s thoughts and feelings
• Compose and present a monologue from the historical figure’s point of view
• Design a mask or costume that represents the life and work of the historical figure

Georgia Standards of Excellence:
• ELAGSE6W3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
• TA6.CR.2: Develop scripts through theatrical techniques.
• TA6.PR.1: Act by communicating and sustaining roles in formal and informal environments.
• VA6.CR.2: Choose from a range of materials and/or methods of traditional and contemporary artistic practices to plan and create works of art.
• VA6.PR.1: Plan, prepare, and present completed works of art.

Try it!

Step 1: Select a historical figure to research.
• Tip: the person may be an artist, inventor, politician, activist, or other public figure.
• Gather research about the person’s life, making particular note of:
  o How and why they “made history”
  o At least (3) facts about their early life; and
  o At least (3) facts about their adult life and career

Step 2: Use your research and imagination to compose a monologue from the figure’s point of view.
• Open with a hook to grab your audience’s attention (try using onomatopoeia, an anecdote, a question, a quote, flashback, dialogue, or an interesting fact).
• Then, use first-person perspective (“I”) to tell your story as if you are that historical figure.
• Talk about your childhood as well as your adult life, and be sure to share feelings throughout.
• Close your monologue by summarizing how you made history, and how you are remembered.

Step 3: Design a mask or costume that represents the life and work of your historical figure.
• Tip: Look at photographs online to create artwork that is inspired by your figure’s life and work.

Step 4: Perform!
• Once you have completed your monologue and mask or costume, share your piece with your family (at home) and friends (perhaps in a virtual space!).