**4-SQUARE Unit on PERSONAL HEROS**

**(Session 1: Focus, 1 - 2 days)**

**For Everyone:**
1. Read “Hero” test. (See brief article on p. 2 of this document)

**With assigned partner:**
2. Map the text/chapter fill out the graphic organizer to reflect what you and your partner believe to be at least 4 key characteristics of a strong leader or a hero.
3. Check your map/graphic organizer with the teacher before you go to Session 2.

**(Session 2: Investigate, 1 – 3 days)**

**For You**
1. Choose a Hero from those available on the Book Table (See selected list beginning on p. 4 of this document). Choose one book that interests you. Use your post-it notes to record important and interesting things you learn about your hero.
2. Create a T-Chart. As you read the book you chose, fill in the left side of the T-Chart by listing at least 3 personal characteristics possessed, or life experiences that you believe are similar between you and your hero.
3. On the right side of the T-Chart, for each item you listed on the left side, write a sentence or two about your similarity with your hero.

**(Session 4: Closure, Celebration, 1 – 3 days)**

**For You**
Using information from class discussions and performances, our textbook, and your research, create a “BODY BIOGRAPHY” of your hero. Use the large roll of paper provided so that you can create a true-to-life-sized figure. Dress your hero as he or she would be dressed. Give you’re here “props” and background/setting details that give us clues about your hero’s life. On a separate poster-sized sheet of paper, create a “talk bubble” large enough to include a quote from your hero. Write that quote in large enough print to be seen from 10 feet away. Use your best artistic skills, but spend only 1 hour drawing the outline, and only 2 hours coloring/painting/filling it in. Be ready to post your hero’s body biography in the proper place on the timeline we are creating in math this week.

**(Session 3: Synthesize, Create, 1 – 3 days)**

**Your Choice (choose 1, 2, or 3)**
1) Pretend that you are a family member or a very close friend of your hero. Write (through that mask, as if you were that relation) a letter to our class and convince us that your hero really is a hero. Use as many of our heroic word wall words as you can to make your letter convincing and interesting. Write so that we know that you really know your hero well.

2) Create a 5-minute skit depicting an important event that happened in the life of “your” hero -- one that you believe helped him or her develop the qualities of a hero. You may invite up to 3 classmates to act in your skit. Make your script “true” according to your book source.

3) Make a 3-D collage of a scene from the life of “your” hero, as you imagine that it looked. Include realistic scenery and artifacts (you may need to make these things) which would have likely been present at the time your hero was alive.

**Quality Check:** 1) Cultural/historical accuracy; 2) Thorough detail/explanation; 3) References to accurate research; 4) Effective expression for powerful & real ideas; 5) Care in editing (engage a “chief editor” if necessary).
It has been said that heroes are ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things. Some heroes are people who have had a dream, have committed themselves to that dream, and have then worked hard and overcome obstacles to attain that dream. Others have become heroes because of circumstances in which they found themselves, decisions they made quickly in the midst of extreme chaos or trauma, and positive outcomes that resulted from their thoughtful, brave, or ingenious decisions.

As you hear about some of your teacher’s heroes, and as you read about and get acquainted with some of your own heroes, you will see that no one individual excelled at everything, but that each one had his or her own unique gifts and talents. You will also notice that there are certain similarities which occurred consistently and repeatedly throughout biographies of the various heroes you will study.

Heroes have courage. Some heroes that you will study had physical courage, some had moral courage, and some had spiritual courage. They all were willing to take risks and stand by their convictions, even when that may have meant standing alone. Some heroes made a personal commitment to a dream and then had the patience, perseverance, and determination to pursue that dream, in spite of frustrations and discouragement. One metaphor that might be used to describe this type of heroes is that they were marathon runners rather than sprinters, and they “hung in there” for the entire race.
Heroes have all had obstacles to overcome. Some were physical obstacles (such as physical handicaps, or a lack of athletic ability. Others have experienced psychological obstacles (such as extreme shyness or feelings of inferiority); some were financial obstacles (such as the expectations and responsibilities associated with great wealth or the burdens of extreme poverty); and some were obstacles of social injustice (such as racial discrimination or educational deprivation). Some heroes rose above their obstacles by working hard and believing in themselves, and some turned their apparent disadvantage to advantage by a change in their own attitudes. All heroes developed or realized a larger perspective than self. Their fulfillment came not from personal recognition or materialistic success, but rather, from their dedication to improving the lives of those around them.

It has been said that people are much the same everywhere. Regardless of the century or the area of the world in which they live, they all have pretty much the same kinds of problems, the same fears, the same hopes, and the same dreams. All of us are given our own unique abilities and talents, but it is up to us to develop them and make the most of them. All of us have obstacles to overcome. Some may come from outside ourselves and some may come from inside ourselves, but the attitude with which we meet these obstacles can mean the difference between failure and success, or between defeat and victory. Success is not necessarily measured by the world’s standard of success, but by the standard we each set for ourselves. We do not have to compete with anyone else to be successful. We just have to be the very best that we can be.