

Application Number (For Office Use Only)

## COVER SHEET

Please follow these guidelines for your application to receive consideration:

1. Print or type legibly
2. Submit four (4) copies of the Proposal Description and Budget Request with one (1) copy of this Cover Sheet
3. Return to Rebecca Starling in the Partners In Education Office by **April 2, 2007**

Name of Applicants: If this is a joint application, list contact person first.

Name of Applicant	Email Address
Susan A. Bender	sbender@jackson.k12.ms.us

School: Jim Hill High School Grade: 9-12

Category:  Single Classroom Project       Team Project       School Project

School Address: 2185 Fortune Street Phone: 960-5354 Fax: 360-2625

Title of Proposal: The Mystery Writers Guild

Grant Request Amount: \$1530.00

Signature of Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/06/2007

Return to:

Junior League of Jackson/EFT Public School Mini-Grants  
c/o Rebecca Starling  
Jackson Public Schools  
Partners In Education Office

## Grant Application

### A. Need.

From the National Science Standards teachers are asked to “Select Science content and adapt and design curricula to meet the knowledge, understanding, and abilities and experiences of students. Select teaching and assessment strategies that support the development of student understanding and nurture a community of science learners, and enable students to have significant responsibilities for the learning of all members of the community.” From the National Reading Standards, “students employ wide range of strategies as they write and use different writing process elements appropriately to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes. With the use of the requested materials, our students will be provided with a diverse set of resources that teachers across disciplines can use as a framework to develop a set of cross curricular vocabulary and language activities.

From the Mississippi English Frameworks, “the student will develop and apply expansive knowledge of words and word meanings to communicate, and the student will comprehend, respond to, interpret, and evaluate a variety of tests on an increasing level of difficulty. From the Mississippi State Science Framework,” students will communicate the results of their investigations in oral, written, and graphic form.” All of these curriculum documents require that students have a firm grasp of word acquisitions, language, vocabulary, and writing skills. With the use of the requested materials, our students will be provided with a diverse set of resources that teachers across disciplines can use as a framework to develop a set of cross curricular vocabulary and language activities.

Statistics indicate that minority women account for 17.20 percent, of the women journalists in newsrooms. Minority women represent 14.28 percent of newsroom journalists. Women correspondents reported just 25% of news stories Women were 21.3% of news directors at U.S. television stations in 2004. And while women have been the majority of college journalism majors since 1977, female journalism and mass communication graduates were less likely to have found fulltime employment than their male classmates.

### B. Goals.

The objectives of this project are:

1. All students will use critical thinking, decision making, and problem solving skills
2. All students will demonstrate personal management skills and demonstrate the ability to work effectively in groups..
3. Students will write in a clear, concise, organized language that varies in content and form for the various purposes and audiences.
4. Students will listen actively to their group members and to members of the other groups during oral presentations.
5. Students will demonstrate problem solving and decision making skills reflected by formulating questions and hypotheses, planning experiments, conducting systematic observations, interpreting and analyzing data, drawing conclusions, and communicating the results of these experiments.
6. Students will demonstrate an understanding for the integration science and technology and develop a conceptual understanding of the nature and use of technology.

Writing provides the liberation of being able to speak without interruption, without intimidation—opportunities that according to statistics, have rarely been taken by women or minorities.

By encouraging the students to write about topics that they enjoy and investigations that they have participated in and mysteries that they have solved they have the raw materials with which to begin to develop a writing framework. The infused activities provide an opportunity for teachers to capture the students enthusiasm generated from all of the popular crime scene dramas that now saturate the air waves. The students will be actively engaged in performing activities required to solve a fictitious murder mysteries of their own design. The progress of the students will be monitored with checklists, mystery stories, oral presentations, and a final portfolio of their work.

This project will increase student confidence and for some be the first time that they have been admired by their peers for an academic task. As a pilot project I began this year allowing student volunteers to write their own short mysteries with limited supplies. It was an overwhelming success. Students who have never sought the attention of their peers were thrilled to have the chance to show off their talents to their classmates, friends, and family members. Those with artistic talents illustrated the stories that were printed in our class newsletter.

As students become more interested in science, and more confident in their ability to evaluate and assimilate scientific content their classroom conduct will improve. Their in-class assignment grades and test grades will improve. Their writing and data analysis skills will improve when compared with those students who have not had the benefit of these activities. The scores on the constructed portion of the state assessment instrument (SATP) for Biology will increase. The scores on the science reasoning portion of the SAT and ACT with writing will improve because the students will have had numerous experiences in interpreting data and writing responses to evidence presented in a scientific form. As a result of our efforts, the overall scientific literacy level and basic grammar and writing skills will improve. This activity in combination with the other CORE writing and literacy strategies will ensure that students are not only literate but that they will read with curiosity and with the joy of knowing that they can solve the mysteries associated with being life long learners.

**Time Line:** Most of the requested supplies are NOT consumable materials and will be used for the life of the materials. The plan is to include at least two mystery writing activities per term for the entire school year.

### C. Plan.

So what is the solution? Use mysteries for teaching. Mysteries get reluctant students enthusiastic about reading, thinking and writing. Mysteries, with their intrigue, characters hold the students' interest and especially when they are original student work. Students become involved in what they are writing because they use deductive reasoning and research skills to solve the mystery. Mysteries are exciting reading for students. Students become enthused about the plot development, character analysis, clues, and gathering of evidence and possible solutions.

Mysteries can be used to achieve higher levels of thinking in these ways: Students arrange characters and events in the mysteries Students classify events, describe characters, and explain precisely what has occurred. Students apply existing knowledge to the mystery by illustrating, dramatizing, and writing their interpretations. Students analyze, categorize, and differentiate characters and events. Students collect and organize facts to form hypotheses. Students appraise, argue, assess, and evaluate their opinions in the process of solving the mystery.

When writing an original mystery, the student will brainstorm, research, and develop specific elements that demonstrate their knowledge and their own exciting vision. After these elements are completed, the next steps are outlining, drafting, conferencing, revising, and publishing. The requested supplies and equipment will allow the students to become published authors in a monthly student newsletter that will be distributed to all of the parents and students involved in the honors program. The articles will include current science topics that are in the news, feature articles on the class related activities, journal entries on science topics, and mysteries with a scientific focus. Most of the requested

supplies are NOT consumable materials and will be used for the life of the materials. The plan is to include at least two mystery writing activities per term for the entire school year.

The writing products will be shared with parents, community members, peers, staff and others in our monthly student newsletter, on our class interactive web page, and with the requested materials in a Microsoft e-book form and in a printed, bound published form.

**Additionally, a member of the community John Floyd, who is an instructor at Millsaps College who is a published author has agreed to donate his time to work with students in small groups with the goal of generating material that could produce and income for the students as nationally published authors.**

**D. Budget.**

The materials requested will have a long term impact on instruction and if current trends hold true 62% of the 120 students enrolled each year in the honors program are female. So this equates to 74 female students per year for the next five years or 370 female students and 230 male students enrolled in the program.

The materials requested include ink for the newsletter and mystery stories to be published, photo and art paper for the illustrations of the books, paper for copying the stories, a binding machine for the production of the mystery books and the binding supplies for the books. In addition, we will need a set of three (3) 2 Gigabyte flash drives for saving the stories written by the students.

Supplier: Office Depot

Item	Catalog #	Price	Total
(1) Wilson Jones Comb Binding Machine	531880	179.99	179.99
(15) Poly Binding Covers	535352	14.99/20	360
(6) Black Binding Combs	535192	14.99/100	90
(10) HP #94 Black Ink Twin Pack	108729	35.99/2	359.9
(10) Case Office Depot Copy Paper	348037	30.99/each	309.99
(5) HP Premium Photo Paper	216161	24.99/each	125
(3) Kingston 2 GB Flash Drive	177966	34.99/each	105
		Total	\$1530

**Office Depot does not charge shipping and provides free delivery**

**This grant is being used to supplement a grant to the Women’s Fund of Greater Jackson for Computers and Peripherals for \$5000**

**E. Outcome.**

The outcomes of the project will be measured by monitoring with checklists, mystery stories, oral presentations, and a final portfolio of their work. We will also include a survey on the class web page, a survey in the student newsletter and a chance for parents and peers to respond each term.

The students will also have a chance to enter their original work in to several junior mystery writer competitions in the area. As students become more proficient writers, more interested in science, and more confident in their ability to evaluate and assimilate scientific content their classroom conduct will improve.

Their in-class assignment grades and test grades will improve. Their writing and data analysis skills will improve when compared with those students who have not had the benefit of these activities. The scores on the constructed portion of the state assessment instrument (SATP) for Biology and English will increase.

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The scores on the science reasoning portion of the SAT and ACT with writing will improve because the students will have had numerous experiences in interpreting data and writing responses to evidence presented in a scientific form. As a result of our efforts, the overall scientific literacy level and basic grammar and writing skills will improve. This activity in combination with the other CORE writing and literacy strategies will ensure that students are not only literate but that they read with curiosity and with the joy of knowing that they can solve the mysteries associated with being life long learners

## Grant Rubric

A. Need (10 points)		
a. Based on data	_____ /8	
b. Funding not available from other sources	_____ /2	
		_____ /10
B. Goals (25 points)		
a. Specific	_____ /5	
b. Measurable	_____ /5	
c. Achievable	_____ /5	
d. Realistic	_____ /5	
e. Time specific	_____ /5	
		_____ /25
C. Plan (25 points)		
a. Fosters higher level thinking skills	_____ /5	
b. Creative	_____ /5	
c. Participatory	_____ /5	
d. Age appropriate	_____ /5	
e. Meets stated needs	_____ /5	
		_____ /25
D. Budget (20 points)		
a. Description of materials	_____ /5	
b. Useful for multiple years	_____ /5	
c. Necessary to achieve outcomes	_____ /5	
d. Budget form is complete and includes Shipping and handling if applicable	_____ /5	
		_____ /20
E. Outcome (20 points)		
a. Evaluation well planned	_____ /10	
b. Evaluation measures results	_____ /10	
		_____ /20
<b>Total</b>		<b>_____ /100</b>

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## Budget Request

**Breakdown of Expenditures:** List each item separately. Include catalog number, supplier name, and cost, where applicable. Be sure to include any shipping and handling charges. Include supplemental documentation, such as a copy of catalog description, if applicable.

Materials/Service (include catalog number if applicable.)	Supplier Name and Phone Number	Cost Per Item	Total
Type materials list.	Type supplier(s) name and phone number(s).	Type in cost.	Type in total cost.
Item			
(1) Wilson Jones Comb Binding Machine                      531880	Office Depot	179.99	179.99
(15) Poly Binding Covers                      535352		14.99/20	360.00
(6) Black Binding Combs                      535192		14.99/100	90.00
(10) HP #94 Black Ink Twin Pack              108729		35.99/2	359.90
(10) Case Office Depot Copy Paper        348037		30.99/each	309.99
(5) HP Premium Photo Paper              216161		24.99/each	125.00
(3) Kingston 2 GB Flash Drive                177966		34.99/each	105.00

	Total	\$ 1530.00
	Total for Shipping and Handling	\$ 0
	<b>GRAND TOTAL REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$ 1530.00</b>