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Marketing

Orbis the Studio



Slogan for Orbis

A BOUTIQUE SOUND STUDIO CO-FOUNDED BY AWARD WINNER BISHWADEEP CHATTERJEE & ABHISHEK PANDEY. THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR SOUND REQUIREMENTS.

Orbis website "About Us"

Orbis, Latin for 'circle' and 'circular motion', is exactly what the name means. Full. Complete. Seamless.

Orbis is a boutique sound studio that provides excellent quality of recording, with carefully selected state-of-the-art equipment combined with special attention to acoustic design inspired by the latest international trends.

Co-founded by Mr. Bishwadeep Chatterjee and Mr. Abhishek Pandey, Orbis brings you the best in recording facilities and comfort. With Mr. Chatterjee's decades of experience and Mr. Pandey's honed entrepreneurial and management skills, Orbis is a studio that has been planned with passion and perfection.

Orbis is the perfect place to record for commercials, music, film soundtracks, film scores, dialogue dubbing, sound effects recording and audio post production. We are open to freelance engineers and welcome their involvement and suggestions. They will be backed by competent resident assistant engineers and staff. We can also propose a plan and execute the complete audio post production for commercials and corporate films on a turnkey basis. How best to creatively maximize the facility would entirely depend on our esteemed clients.

Which Watch

OUR MAIN
PARTNERS

NETFLIX

hulu™

HBO GO

amazonPrime



ADDRESS

Which Watch Enterprise
1100 Sunset Blvd.
Office C.
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what
are we
going to
watch
tonight?



about us

Which Watch is an online entertainment company which seeks to answer the question, "What are we going to watch tonight." In an era of overwhelming options from services that lack a personal touch, we hope to ease the process of picking out a movie in the age of modern indecision.

a modern problem

PLETHORA OF SOURCES

Netflix, HBO GO, Amazon Prime, Hulu, the list of online entertainment providers goes on forever. This can make it difficult to see what's available if you are not subscribed to all of them.

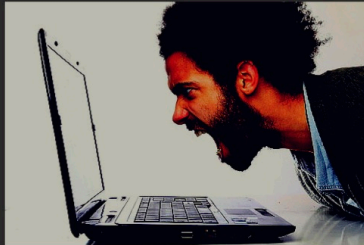
LACK OF INFORMATION

Online streaming services often do not provide enough information for the titles which they offer, making it very difficult for consumers to make an informed decision of what to watch

TYRANNY OF CHOICE

There is simply so much content that picking just one thing to watch can seem like a stressful situation. It can seem hopeless. It can feel like you will never pick the right thing. We aim to fix this

before which watch



after which watch



how we help you pick something good

CATALOGUE

We will provide the titles of all of you're favorite streaming services in one convenient, easy, and organized place. We will also show what titles will be available in the future!

RATINGS AND REVIEWS

We know that when you're drowning in content, it's hard to tell the difference between what's great and what stinks. We provide critical reviews from the sources you trust so that you don't waste your time with any content remotely close to subpar.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Who said a night in had to be lonely? Our website is connected to social media so that you can make recommendations and share your experience with your friends..

Satire**Conservative Student Realizes that Biking to Campus Makes Him Environmentally Conscious, Does as Much Damage to Environment as Possible to Compensate**

On Tuesday, third-year Mechanical Engineering major and self-proclaimed “Republican” (an ineffective portmanteau of Republican and American) Glenn Riley made the horrifying realization that his choice of biking to campus to everyday was in fact environmentally conscious and thus implicitly a reaction to global warming, which he does not believe in.

“I didn’t see anything wrong with biking for the longest time,” said Riley. “It even seemed to be in line with my values; I could just cut people off whenever I wanted and I always had the right of way, even on sidewalk, where I could run over anyone I see with a co-op bag. Real Darwinian “survival of the fittest” stuff. But then I see this freakin’ Environmental Studies hippie riding his bike and he tells me he does it because it’s ‘good for the planet,’ which is

ridiculous, 'cause the planet's just fine. In fact, it's probably better for having us humans on it; we greatly strengthen its free market. So anyway, I destroyed my bike and his face right then and there. Freakin' hippie."

But Riley did not stop there; he has since made it his mission to do as many things that are environmentally destructive as possible. "I bought a Hummer and I drive it to class while eating unsustainably produced hamburger and waving a chain of plastic bottles that I soaked in gasoline and CFC spray and lit on fire. I also spit at any picture of Al Gore that I see, just for good measure. Unfortunately I haven't seen any pictures of Al Gore in years, but Bernie Sanders is an acceptable substitute."

When asked if there were any other causes that he felt particularly passionate about, he said "Immigration. We can't go letting all these people into our country. They'd ruin the place."

Oscars: What Your Pick for Best Picture Says About You



The Big Short— You think it’s important for people to have a better understanding of the 2008 financial crisis, and you learned so much about journalism from *Anchorman*, so this is really the perfect film.

Bridge of Spies— You were probably alive when the events of this movie were taking place.

Brooklyn— You feel guilty for still not knowing how to pronounce Saoirse Ronan’s name and are hoping you can just get by on pronouns until the ceremony.

Mad Max: Fury Road— You’re either the guy being forced to watch the Oscars with his girlfriend, or the girlfriend who tries to teach her boyfriend feminism by showing him a 120 minute long car chase

The Martian—You really like eighties disco, potatoes, and “sciencing the shit” out of things

The Revenant— You love Leo and hate bears. Or possibly vice versa.

Room— You, um... like movies that are... serious and um.... Pass.

Spotlight— You’ve got a lot of money riding on this and you want a safe bet.

Student Studies Abroad One Semester, Looks Down on Less Travelled Friends

Third-year student Jason Stackton thought he was just another normal college student until he came back from a life-changing semester abroad in Thailand.

Raised in a sheltered, white suburban neighborhood, Jason quickly realized that four months in a third-world country was more than enough time to understand the struggles and perspectives of someone who did not grow up in an upper-middle class family from California. "I actually feel really bad for my friends who have never left the country for more than a vacation," Jason admitted, clad in his elephant-print Harem pants. "It's like, they don't even know how privileged they are to live the life they have right now. I just wish they had half of the perspective I gained while exploring the only other part of the world I've ever extensively visited."

Jason noted that he often likes to write long, passionate social media posts about his newfound perspective on foreign culture and privilege, all while lying out on his oceanfront balcony with a glass of filtered water and some snacks. "Seeing my friends go about their day as if everything in their life is completely normal just disgusts me," Jason complained. "I started a conversation with a Thai taxi driver once." Jason took a sip of water, clearly feigning to think of more examples. Coming up with nothing, he digressed. "Things like that are what immersing yourself in another culture is all about."

Still wary to sit next to the Asian exchange students in class, Jason hopes that one day everyone will be as cultured and open-minded as him. Until then, all he can do is pity those that have yet to understand his near-perfect knowledge of a foreign culture based off of one semester of legal binge drinking and tourist attractions.

Fiction**Mr. Brown**

“Hello?”

“Evan?”

“Hello? Yes?”

“Hey Evan this is Senior”

“Huh?”

“Ron Brown senior. You know, Ron Brown’s dad?”

“Oh. Hey Mr. Brown.”

“Listen, Evan, I gotta talk to you about something.”

“Um...ok sure Mr. Brown what is it?”

“Evan, I need you to tell Ron to quit this acting shit.”

“Um...what?”

“He’s been talking about moving to LA to be an actor and I just can’t have this shit anymore, it’s embarrassing and I won’t have it.”

“Mr. Brown, I don’t know if I really feel comfortable with this.”

“Listen Evan, you know I got laid off last year. You know that me and Renee just started a cleaning company, and yeah its going well. But not that well Evan. Not sending Ron off to LA so he can come back in a year to work for me Evan. I can’t waste that time. I can’t waste that money. And I certainly can’t have him wasting the same things. You’ve got to talk to him Evan. Do it for him as a friend.”

“Umm... Damn Mr Brown I don’t know. I don’t know if it’s really my place to be doing that.”

“Evan, please, I’m asking you a favor.”

“I know sir, but, that’s just not the way me and Ron talk, ya know? I don’t even think it would do anything if I did told him to do that. I mean, you know how Ron is. That might even make him wanna go more.”

“I know I know, it’s all that shit we’ve told him since he’s been growing up”

“Yeah”

“You know, all that ‘you can do it’ and ‘you can be anything you want’ and ‘never give up’ and ‘don’t ever let anybody tell you what you can or can’t do.’”

“That’s nice stuff, sir.”

“Yeah but I thought that there was supposed to be a day where Ron just kind of realized that a lot of that is a load of shit. That that’s just kind of stuff a father says to get his kid through a tough day. But I thought a day would come when he realized that Santa Clause wasn’t real, you know? And how many kids do you have to tell that to before they figure it out on their own? I didn’t know that was my job. As a parent. I thought that was one of those things they just figured it out.”

“I know I did. I even tried to call my mom out on that. She kept the lie going. She still writes Santa on my Christmas gifts.”

“Exactly Ev, I want to be doing that for Ron too, in one way or another. Maybe, I wanna tell him Santa Clause is real. Maybe I wanna be the one who inspires Ron. I wanna be able to feel like Will Smith in the Pursuit of Happyness if I want to.”

“Mr. Brown?”

“Yeah?”

“If you want to tell Ron that Santa Clause is real, that’s up to you, but you better be prepared to buy the presents.”

(sigh) “yeah”

“Otherwise, you have the luxury of telling him that he isn’t real. Then life’s a little less special for Ron, then he spends the rest of his life getting fucking tube socks for Christmas. I get tube socks now. I’ll probably get tube socks for the rest of my life. I spoiled what I had with my mom. Now I get this damn adult stuff. Mr. Brown...if it were me, I would’ve held on to that shit as long as possible. I think it’s wonderful you’ve held on as long as you have. But I can’t do your dirty work for you, sir. If you want it done, you’re gonna have to do it yourself.”

“Ok Evan”

click

Sally

Like the idea of Siri but tired of having to actually think to tell her what to do? Well think no more with the Sally, the most amazing new smartphone technology from Macinsoft. Sally can make calls for you, do your shopping, and even sense other people's intelligent Sally profiles and tell you the perfect thing to say to them. She can impress that special someone, or help get rid of that terrifying person who needs to know that they will never be your special someone. We know socially interacting is hard, which is why you bought a smartphone in the first place. Now, never have to take responsibility for your electronic social interactions again, with Sally!

Sally's amazing new reality sensors can even tell when you're in an uncomfortable social situation, and will buzz to make sure you return your attention to your command center. She also senses when *your* sense of importance is lacking, and gives sporadic confidence buzzes to make sure you and others are well aware that you've always got something going on.

There are no limits to Sally! She can sense everything! When the wife has won the argument, when you're scolded by your boss, or that awkward moment when you realize you've been asking people questions when you should have been asking Google. In any of these annoying, lifelike situations, Sally sends buzzes to make sure your sense of purpose is rediscovered in the place that it matters, your phone.

Garry scoffed and began muttering as he trudged through the ad on his ancient iPhone 5. Garry's phone was not only ancient because of its uncurved, non-immersive screen; it was also

ancient in name: smartphones started being called MyPhones back in 2017 when Apple and Microsoft decided to bury the hatchet and join forces “to make the world a better place”. *God dammit* he thought. *I hope these idiots don't actually buy into this crap. Can't they see what's going to happen? Isn't anybody aware that the better they get at knowing what you want, the less you actually know what it is that you want?*

“Its ok.” said his girlfriend Sheila, patting him on the back, “they’ll get it eventually.” Regulating Garry’s muttering was not an uncommon occurrence for Sheila; it was in fact a fairly regular part of her daily routine. Once she felt that his inward rage had subsided, she left the black faux leather sofa and approached the console by the door. She tapped her device, a brand new MyPad 2020 against it, and a large mail icon appeared on the screen. Ever since the US postal service went under, the digital ritual of email had become more elaborate so that the formality of the medium could stay intact.

“Looks like we got some mail Garry! Something huge!”

“What? Who’s it from?”

“Macinsoft”

Garry audibly groaned, “What?”

“I think they want you to come in for a meeting.”

“I’m not taking a meeting with those monsters.”

“Come on! Just watch the video for one second.”

Gary rolled his eyes and swiped up on the MyPad. Richard Clark, the CEO of Macinsoft was suddenly projected into the room, standing in front of them on the couch.

“Garry we desperately need your help. You haven’t responded to any of my other messages, so I hope my gesture of the hologram can help display the severity of the situation. I’ve also sent some lovely flowers to Sheila, along with a high value Amazonian.”

The Amazonian is a gift basket that uses your purchasing habits on the internet to assemble a profile of your taste and build “the perfect gift basket”, that varies in size depending on the amount of money the gift giver decides to put into the basket. Garry had hacked into his own profile so his gift baskets usually ended up looking like they were meant to insult him, thereby mocking anyone who would think it a nice gesture to buy him one. This time Macinsoft had sent him a blow up sex doll, humble figurines, and an Atkins Diet book with the note “*For Sheila*” written on it.

“I can’t explain the details over the phone Garry, but if you tap the pad three times right now, I’ll take that as agreement and forward a route to your car immediately. Please Garry, I know you disagree with the direction the company has taken, but we are desperate to have you back. This is nothing to blow off. More is at stake than I can say. This is for the greater good of the human race.”

“I really think you should do this,” said Sheila.

“No fucking way. I’m not going back to work for those monsters. They’re making us all into lazy dumbasses.”

“Garry, I’m sorry but you sound like an asshole. It seems like they really need the help, and honestly, you’re in no place to talk about lazy dumbasses. I don’t think I’ve seen you do anything but mutter on that couch for the last two weeks. You used to be so full of hope. Now you can’t even inspire yourself to dial the digits to order takeout. Its sad Garry, not to mention unattractive...”

“Alright, alright, I’m going, let me get my coat.”

Garry had been an early college superstar in computer science; he had even won several awards and competitions that landed him a job on the inaugural Macinsoft team in 2017. However, once he got into the production side of things, he decided that it would be in his best interest to leave the computer world altogether. He had too many ideas about limiting technology, fears that things would go to far. Garry was a hard worker in his earlier days and a big believer in the “teach a man to fish” aphorism, and Macinsoft could not understand that direction. They wanted him to help build a society in which nobody would have to learn to fish again, so he left. He still used his talents, he was a genius after all, but he only used them to win boatloads of cash on online poker. He won frequently, and lived comfortably, but never applied himself to anything but cards anymore. He just sat on the couch, watched television, and played endless hands while Sheila waited on him hand and foot, remembering the days when she had to wait for him to even call her back. She listened to his rants day in and day out about how technology would be the end of the human race, but mostly just humored him while she snuck in long Facebook complaining sessions with her friends via her MyPad glasses implant, which allowed her to show her friends video of everything she saw, which of course became the visual evidence to back up her constant complaining. The most amazing part is that she could share all of this without Garry even noticing. Not that she even really had to worry that he would anyways.

“We called you in because we’re having a serious issue with our Sally testers”, said Richard. “Come into the lab and meet this one, his name is Ryan.”

Garry walked into the room expecting the old lab. White coats, white walls, grey, metallic tables. But this was not that lab at all. Instead there was a dark grey room with several chairs, in the middle of which there was a glass, one way mirror which allowed them to see into another bland blank room containing only a large brown leather sofa and an aggravated man, hunched over with a dead look in his eyes. A fly landed on his eyelid and he didn't even blink.

“Jesus! What’s wrong with him? It doesn’t look like he’s moved in days”

“Well, we gave him the new Sally MyPhone, but only under the condition that he could live out of this room. We wanted to observe how every aspect of the product was used.”

“You’re isolating him, treating him like a caged animal! No wonder he looks so morose! Heavy isolation like this will undoubtedly lead to depression.”

“That’s actually not true. With Sally, he was able to live his entire life very comfortably from within this very room, and he actually seemed fulfilled even though we controlled a large part of his every social interaction and life decision. When psychiatrists surveyed him, it was almost as if his life had not changed from before he received the phone. That was expected. That was what we wanted.”

“I can’t understand why anybody in the world would want that, but what’s the problem if you want the phone to ‘help’ him like that.”

“Well, we want everyone to use our phones all the time of course. Why wouldn’t a businessman want to make a product that a person can’t live without? However, we need to prove that people can use these tools constructively. Ryan uses Sally, sure, but the only thing she ever assisted him in doing was socializing and entertaining him while he smoked pot and ate peanut butter. He had every tool in the world; Sally could allow him to do anything. She could assist him in finally perfecting the teleporter in that room, or writing the next great novel. Ryan

graduated from MIT! We figured that trapping in him in this small room would encourage him, and prove that great things could be accomplished anywhere so long as a person had Sally in their pocket. But that's not what happened at all. His online interactions gave him the social fulfillment that he needed without him even needing to participate in them, so he simply spent the rest of his days with that damn dead look in his eyes and the peanut butter spoon never too far away. Our question, Garry is, how do we get people to use this tech for good? How can we show man that if he worries less about his decisions, he can live his life to the fullest at maximum efficiency? How can we show people to use the greatest tool mankind has very received to actually make something even greater, instead of just using it to allow yourself to be a lazy dumbass.”

“I’ll tell you how, you don’t sell it to the public! In order for a smartphone to work, the person using it has to be smarter than the phone! But we’ve been killing that aspect of ourselves. We’ve been killing that ever since we had a computer tell us the right way to spell harmony! Having it tell us how to cook dinner! Having it tell us the directions to our fucking parents’ house! Don’t you see Richard?”

“I do see Garry, but I’m not going to abandon my product. There really is a lot of good Sally can do; we just need to find a way to limit what is dangerous about her. You know, if we work together, we can create something that can *make the world a better place.*”

After hearing that phrase again, Garry was reminded of every reason he left, and stormed out of the building. *Those fucking idiots* he thought, *if they go through with this it’ll be the end.* He quickly hopped in his car, and it drove him home. He sat impatiently, kicking the seat with a frown on his face and his arms crossed on his chest. He intermittently cursed and screamed at the car“ Won’t this thing go any fucking faster?” And for a moment he wished it could hear him.

Curriculum



The Dog Who Solved a Murder Mystery: A True Story

The Dog Who Solved a Murder Mystery
by Joel Jacobsen

Illustration by Jennifer Swain

OVERVIEW

Quick Glance 10 Points for Usage Guide

STUDENT POPULATION		LESSON PLANNING	
Age / Grade Level	Ages 12 and up	Topic/s	Life in the Old West Legal Justice American History
Appropriateness	Grades 6 and up		

			Historic Research Methods Strange and Incredible Feats
Genre/s	Historical Nonfiction Murder Mystery True Tales True Crime	Key Theme/s Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Determination * Loyalty * Seeing different perspectives from another time and another culture * Timelessness and power of stories • How perspectives change in law and life • How a criminal might not think he or she is a criminal • How a researcher looks at a true story from a historical perspective • Civic Duty
Length	2,983 words	Historic Events / Time Period for Study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ranch/Cowboy culture of New Mexico in the 1890s * Spanish speaking American life in the 1890s
Content Advisories	Some graphic imagery Vague references to violent crime, murder	Complementary Classic & Historic Texts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Call of the Wild by Jack London * In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
One Sentence Summary	A historical recount of an 1890's New Mexican dog who helps a cowboy discover how his brother was murdered.	Author & Artists Info.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Author is Joel Jacobsen, Assistant Attorney General of New Mexico * Artist is Jennifer Swain, a Los Angeles local
Author Biography	Joel Jacobsen's nonfiction contribution to the 3rd issue of Literature for Life tells a story drawn from handwritten trial transcripts found in the New Mexico State Archives and newspaper articles from the 1890s. Joel is the author of Such Men as Billy the Kid: The		

Lincoln County War Reconsidered, which the great historian of American violence Richard Maxwell Brown wrote ‘belongs on the same shelf as the classic works on the Kid and the County.

Artist Biography

Jennifer Swain has been drawing pictures and writing stories for as long as she can remember. She attended Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. In college she took many art classes. She has been creating artwork ever since. Her artwork has been seen in many places, even as Floats in the Tournament of Roses. She has won awards and has been an art teacher at all levels of education, from K through adult.

Key Vocabulary

LEVEL ONE Vocabulary	LEVEL TWO Vocabulary	LEVEL THREE Vocabulary
saddle	sprinkled	telegraph
poured	cinching	bowlegged
wound	gallant	stragglers
myth	frigid	herd
scalp	scrunched	Great Depression
impatient	skulking	Rocky Mountains
rifle	caked	Colt revolver
leaping	embers	carbine
plunging	wisps	corral
ambush	carcass	bonfire
exceptional	slaughtered	hindquarters
endurance	cogitations	yucca
crudely	hermitage	saddlebag
butchered	macabre	overshoe
cactus	swiftly	posse

coals	hanging	hosanna
ashes	prosecution	Gusano
landscape	bonfire	telegraph
foreigner	isolated	overcoat
coded	gruesome,	bridle
sheriff	hospitality	Navajo
	aggression	apache
	tormentor	Tewa
	skins	Keres
	cowboy	plea bargaining
	depot	telegraph operator
	peddler	Mesa
	culprits	steer
	corroborating	rustling (cattle)
	clear-cut (case)	juniper
		pinon

SYNOPSIS

Drawn from handwritten trial transcripts found in the New Mexico State Archives and newspaper articles from the 1890s, “The Dog Who Solved the Murder Mystery: A True Story” tells the story of Tomas, a cowboy who rides off into the snow with his dog Gallardo one snowy January. Gallardo returns several days later with blood caked on his fur, but without Tomas. Gallardo leads Tomás’s brother Maximiliano out deep into the snow to find Tomás’s severed foot in a boot. Meanwhile, the local sheriff is also on the case and sends a posse to search for suspects. A one armed man they find tells them that he was robbed by four armed men who could easily have also murdered Tomas. He leads the sheriff’s posse right to the criminals, but these are not the men who murdered Tomás. One of the captured criminals, Orcensio Martinez, leads the sheriff to one of the real criminals, Jesus Vialpando, in exchange for some money and his release. When Vialpando is caught, he argues in court that he committed the murder in self-defense. However, it is apparent that he is guilty, and he and his group are sentenced to hang. The author then reminds us that the evidence would not have been stacked against the criminals

had it not been for the amazing feat of Gallardo the dog leading Maximiliano to his brother's body. This is a historic non-fiction piece written from the perspective of the researcher.

CURRICULUM

Introduction Activity/Themes Exploration

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2

Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

Topic

Write about a time when someone, or something, did something extraordinary for you. Or, conversely, when you went above and beyond for someone else. What did they (or you) do? What made the extra effort apparent?

Main Ideas

There are two sides to every story, especially when it comes to doing something wrong. Write about a time you got in trouble. Was there a misunderstanding? Was it not actually your fault? How did the person on the other side of the story see the situation?

Passage-Specific Themes

“From these recollections, and from contemporary newspaper articles and trial transcripts, we know how Tomás’s younger brother Maximiliano responded: he saddled up and let Gallardo lead him back out into the snow. But the sources don’t tell us how Tomás’s family made sense of the dog’s blood-matted fur. Humans don’t like uncertainty. When we hear of strange events, our minds automatically begin making stories to explain them, filling in the blanks. How did the members of Tomás’s family fill in the missing parts of the tale, the pieces Gallardo was trying so hard to tell them? What discussions did they have before the second son followed the first, setting off alone like Victim 2 in a horror movie?”

Why does the author not make up a conversation that the family has? What choice does he make? How does it explain human behavior differently than fiction?

Universal Themes

Have you ever had a story passed around your neighborhood? Something that was so amazing that it was as if it was fiction? This could be a weather event, a strange occurrence, a strange visitor, or even something that was perceived to be a miracle. How did it unite your town and community? Did your local newspaper or television station cover it?

Vocabulary Activities

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on *grade 7 reading and content*, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.5.C

Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions) (e.g., *refined*, *respectful*, *polite*, *diplomatic*, *condescending*).

1. Locate, list, and write down the definitions of all the cowboy specific words in this story, then define them. After that, write a short story in which you use all of the “cowboy specific” words in a different context. (i.e. the city)
2. The author mentions that the dog’s name, Gallardo, means gallant. Are there any other Spanish names or places in this story with meanings attached? Find these names and list their meanings in English. Then have the students create a colorful collage that compares the English and Spanish names and meanings
3. Find and research all of the legal and police terminology used in the story. Then, use it to write a brief scene from a modern court case or police drama. Are the words that Jacobson used to describe the 1890’s still relevant to our times? Which words stand out as different?

Follow Up Class Discussion Questions

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.6

Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.8

Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.2

Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3

Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

1. What about this story makes it so amazing that the author was able to find so much information about it now?
2. Do you think Villipiando was really innocent? Do you think that he truly believed he was innocent?
3. There are two sides to every story, especially when it comes to wrongdoing and crime. Think about a time you got in trouble. Was there a misunderstanding? Was it not actually your fault? How did the person on the other side of the story see the situation?
4. How is this story similar to your idea of the “Wild West”? How is it different?

Text-Dependent Questions

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.6

Determine an author’s point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how the author distinguishes his or her position from that of others.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.8

Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.2

Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.7.3

Analyze the interactions between individuals, events, and ideas in a text (e.g., how ideas influence individuals or events, or how individuals influence ideas or events).

1. What is the difference between the 1890s cowboy and our current vision of a cowboy? Cite text examples here.
2. Consider why strange details that stand out like a peddler having one arm make a story more memorable? What other details in the story help to make it memorable?
3. What, specifically, made Gallardo live up to his name? Cite text examples.
4. What is the style of this story? Who is the narrator? How does he reveal himself and his perspective?
5. We might usually imagine the “Wild West” as an arid, sandy place. However, the description of New Mexico in January and Jennifer Swain’s artwork conflict with this image. Use textual evidence to describe how it conflicts with the “Wild West” the movies has ingrained in our minds.
6. There is a lot of language and references to things that might be unfamiliar to you since the story is set in such a different time and place. What stood out to you? Did the author explain it well enough for you to understand it? Or did you have to do outside research? If so, how did you do outside research, and what did you learn?

Writing Exercises

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.1

Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.

Narrative

Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild* is a famous novel written from the dog’s perspective. This one is about a dog’s heroics (clearly) but is not written from the dog’s perspective. Try your hand at writing this story from Gallardo’s perspective.

Descriptive

Write any section of this story as fiction. For example, fill in the “blanks” discussed in this passage in a scene where the family talks about what might have happened to Tomas; “When we hear of strange events, our minds automatically begin making stories to explain them, filling in the blanks. How did the members of Tomás’s family fill in the missing parts of the tale, the pieces Gallardo was trying so hard to tell them? What discussions did they have before the second son followed the first, setting off alone like Victim 2 in a horror movie?”

There is a conversation that happens here that the author speculates about happening but does not write out, as he has an obligation to keep the events historical. Try your hand at writing

Analysis or Expository

Do some deeper research on the 1890s and what life was like in the West during that time. Look into where people lived, how they got food, what they did for work, how they dressed, what their culture was like, etc. Then, write a short expository essay based on your research on what life was like in the 1890s.

Comparative

The story is written in a non-fiction, historical perspective, showing that Joel Jacobson clearly did a lot of research. Many famous works have been written this way, including Truman Capote’s famous work *In Cold Blood*. Write your own story about a historic event, or even about an event that is only historic to you, your friends and family, or neighborhood. Think of yourself as a journalist who must do a lot of research in order to write a good article. Pick an event with lots of details that you can flesh out in your nonfiction narrative.

Complementary Reading Text

Call of the Wild by Jack London

In Jack London’s *Call of the Wild*, the narrator of the story is a dog, Buck. Even though Gallardo does not narrate the story, he could be considered a protagonist. Compare and contrast Buck and Gallardo. If they are different or similar, please explain why and cite textual evidence.

Activities

Classroom Activity 1

Give multiple groups of students the same sheet of facts and ask them to present it as a story to the class. The students will be able to construct a story, and they get to watch how differently the other group’s stories turns out.

Classroom Activity 2

Have the students go online or to the library to find some of the original source material that Joel Jacobsen might have used for this story. They may either create their own non-fiction story out of the material they find or they could write a short research paper discussing the methods that they used to find the material. They should be encouraged to speak to a reference librarian and not simply use the internet.

Home Activity

Ask the students to create a nonfiction story about an amazing feat. They can interview people from their community or even search through the newspaper for something off-kilter that they can assemble a story about.

Give students examples of stories from the news or your local town in class to show them that amazing feats happen all the time and that the task is not insurmountable. Take examples from large historical events if you must, but the more local, the more relatable.

Guest Speaker Idea

1. Have a K-9 officer come in with their dog and talk to students about how dogs have helped them solve cases. They can also talk about their views on criminality, their ideas of what justice is and how they feel about the justice system.
2. Have a local journalist come in and talk about writing interesting nonfiction stories. They can talk about the research they do, how much fun it is, and how many weird and strange things happen in LA everyday that most people wouldn't think to look for. They can also talk about the writing process, what it's like to be a journalist, etc.

Field Trip

Take a trip to a local K-9 unit in Los Angeles. After the trip, ask students to write an essay comparing and contrasting our modern police dog heroes to Gallardo in the story.

<http://www.lapdk9.com/>

Alternate: Take a field trip to large research library or a museum to look at how one might do research for a story like this. If possible, find a library close by like the Los Angeles Central Library.

After the trip, ask the students to write an essay describing the time period depicted in the story versus their new perspective on the time period based on the new knowledge they have gained after the field trip.

Screenwriting

Coe

Logline: A middle aged radio DJ who is no longer “with it” fails to wow his former mentee who was once enamored with him, so he travels back in time to make his younger, nerdier self cool in hopes to impress his mentee in the present.

Ned Coe is a radio DJ who is feeling like he is out of sync with both his listeners and the hip young crowd in general. He turns to his former mentee, Dylan, for solace, but Dylan does not return his phone calls or answer his emails. After Ned leaves numerous messages and emails, Dylan gets fed up and calls into Ned’s radio show, and in a fit of outrage, calls Ned a worthless, lame old loser who “has probably been lame since college”. Ned is heartbroken, that is, until he discovers through his mysterious late night caller Dave from the Grave, that there is a way that he can make himself cool, by using Dave’s time machine to travel back to the 1980s when he was in college to coach his younger self, which he assumes will make his older self-cool. He only has to steal the radio’s annual fund drive money in order to make it happen.

Ned gets back in time despite the station’s general manager, an uptight young Asian woman named Margaret, and her assistant Bimmy’s suspicions. Once in the 80’s, old Ned realizes young Ned is much worse off than he thought, and attempts to coach him to be cool and hip in a series of hilarious hijinks, as it becomes apparent that old Ned has no idea how to be cool no matter what decade he is in. The amazing part is that the two actually have more fun failing to be cool together than they ever could have actually being cool. However, when old Ned watches young Ned fail to even speak to the girl of his dreams and most popular girl in school, Stacy. Disillusioned, he returns to the present without even saying goodbye to his younger self.

In the present, Ned confesses to the wise, Yoda-like, old lady owner of the station Martha that he stole the fund drive money in order to time travel. She tells old Ned that she knew about the money, but she let it slide because she also knows that Dylan is actually Ned and Stacy’s son. She warns that he must go back in time to coach young Ned to get Stacy or else the fabric of space-time will rip apart. So old Ned goes back in time again, this time to win back the affection of his younger self so that he will win the affections of Stacy. However, this time Margaret and Bimmy sneak back in time with Ned to try and pull him back and hold him accountable for stealing the fund drive money, as they are unaware of the drastic consequences.

To help young Ned stop being a loser, Ned must learn that the most important thing is self-acceptance, not worrying about being cool, and gives young Ned the confidence to get with the girl of his dreams. Through teaching this lesson, old Ned also learns it, becoming confident and comfortable enough to know that his hip son Dylan is actually an asshole. Ironically, Ned no longer cares that Dylan doesn’t answer his phone calls despite the fact that he now knows Dylan is his son.