I pledge that I have neither given nor received unpermitted aid while working on this packet. All work is entirely my own or cited properly. ________________________________ (sign here)

REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR REMIND IF YOU HAVEN’T YET.

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Sources:
https://www.dailynews.com/2019/04/11/

Student Message:
Hi there! This learning journey takes us front and center of recent events surrounding a public figure. Ermias Asghedom was a father, rapper, and most of all community investor who left an impact on his local surroundings which has since had global impact. Many tributes and memorials have been created to celebrate the care and pride he had for his community and people. He was an advocate and many have found ways to make lasting murals to allow his legacy to live on. In this myriad of text and activities, you’ll practice identifying an author’s central idea and how they support it. You will also have opportunities to show what you know through an array of activities ranging from questions to artistic expression which adds to the fun fundamental of this lesson! This means paying attention to the evidence they give for their central idea and the details they provide to clarify it. As you read and work through these activities, identify evidence that reveals the impact Asghedom, better known as Nipsey Hussle, had on his community.

The learning outcomes of your journey through this packet will allow you to:

MCCRS Standards:
- RL.8.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.
- W.8.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
(1) Along busy highways, on the sides of buildings and inside a school basketball court, more than 50 colorful murals of Nipsey Hussle have popped up in Los Angeles since the beloved rapper and community activist was gunned down outside his clothing store.

(2) Some show the rapper gazing into the sky or bowing his head. One has him standing with angel wings. Others include inspiring quotes. The street artists who created the work said they want his legacy to grow and his entrepreneurial spirit to live on.

(3) “He wasn’t the biggest star, but I knew his music. His passing led me to rediscover him under a completely new light,” said Levi Ponce, who created an elaborate blue, black and white mural on 26-foot-building with Hussle’s image in one day. A lyric from his song “Victory Lap” was written above his head.

(4) Hussle was fatally shot on March 31 while standing outside The Marathon, his South Los Angeles clothing store, not far from where he was raised.

(5) “As a muralist, my philosophy is that we can do our part today with what we have now,” Ponce said. “In my case, I’m a painter and paint in the streets. Nipsey was able to give it on a greater scale. He went out of his way to help the community. For me, that’s motivation and inspiration. So I had to get my paint on the walls right away after hearing the sad news.”

(6) Eric R. Holder Jr., who has been charged with killing Hussle, has pleaded not guilty. Police have said Holder and Hussle had several interactions the day of the shooting and have described it as being the result of a personal dispute.

(7) The death of the 33-year-old Hussle sent a shock wave through the hip-hop community and beyond. Fans poured out adoration for a man whose career hit new heights with Victory Lap, his first studio album that earned a Grammy nomination after he released much sought-after mixtapes for a decade. He was an up-and-coming rapper and beloved figure for his philanthropic work that went well beyond the usual celebrity “giving back” ethos.

(8) After he passed away, Hussle’s peers, from Jay-Z to Snoop Dogg, along with political and community leaders, were quick and effusive in their praise using words. For Ponce and others, paint was how they paid homage.

(9) “The world is uniting because of him. You can see the revival of all the murals going up,” said Nick Ansom, CEO of the Venice Basketball League. He spearheaded a project to create the Nipsey Hussle Memorial Basketball Court at the nonprofit charter school Crete Academy, a few blocks from Hussle’s clothing store.
(10) The basketball court is painted blue with a checkerboard border and a side view of Hussle at midcourt. Ansom said he felt the urge to push forward the initiative to create a basketball court mural in honor of Hussle as a “thank you” to the rapper who says was “starting to reach his peak.” He and his partner, Michael McLeod, drove around South Los Angeles looking for possible schools before Crete Academy founder-principal Hattie Mitchell agreed to embrace the idea.

(11) Afterward, Ansom drew his vision for the mural on paper and called artist Gustavo Zermeno Jr. to design it. He said about 40 people gathered to paint and touch up the mural in a week’s time frame. Hussle’s father and sister attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony to unveil it just days after the rapper’s public memorial service, which drew more than 20,000 people to the Staples Center.

(12) “Nipsey was an advocate and passionate about the game of basketball,” said Ansom, who started his basketball league in 2006 after he moved to Los Angeles from France. He called himself a big fan of Hussle’s music and visited his clothing store to purchase apparel.

(13) “He used to host charity games at Crenshaw High School,” he said. “He was always around the game. (This mural) is hip-hop, basketball and art all in one.”

(14) Before Zermeno helped create Hussle’s basketball court mural, he had already done some street art of the rapper elsewhere in town. He painted a mural of Hussle in between other popular Los Angeles figures including Lakers player LeBron James and Snoop Dogg on the side of a clothing store. When Ansom asked for his help, Zermeno said it was a “no brainer.” The muralist feels he’s just doing his part to celebrate Hussle by doing both for free.

(15) “It’s bigger than just painting a mural,” said Zermeno, who has also created murals of the late Mac Miller and Selena. “A lot of the murals are solidifying Nipsey’s legacy.”

(16) Mitchell shed tears while talking about Hussle’s positive influence over her students at Crete Academy and the community. She was not only taken aback by the mural at her school, but also by the many others around town.

(17) “These murals are popping up every day,” she said. “There are photos that are truly memorializing this man. Most people are coming here to take photos with their family etc. But I saw an individual who didn’t have his phone out. He had his shoulders up, his head down. At that moment, I truly realized that our memorial in our court is somewhat of a gravesite... It’s a place where you can remember someone, feel their spirit and grieve.”
Activity 1: Text-Dependent Questions

**Directions**: Select the best response for each question after getting a thorough understanding of reading the text.

1. Which statement best expresses the central idea of the article?
   A. People are still interested in Nipsey Hussle’s music.
   B. People admire Nipsey Hussle for his support of basketball.
   C. People are creating murals to remember and honor Nipsey Hussle.

2. Which piece of evidence reveals why people are creating the murals of Nipsey Hussle?
   A. “The street artists who created the work said they want his legacy to grow and his entrepreneurial spirit to live on.” (Paragraph 2)
   B. “Fans poured out adoration for a man whose career hit new heights with Victory Lap, his first studio album that earned a Grammy nomination” (Paragraph 7)
   C. “‘Nipsey was an advocate and passionate (about) the game (of basketball),’ said Ansom” (Paragraph 12)

3. In paragraph 8, what does the author mean by saying that “paint was how they paid homage” to Nipsey Hussle?
   A. People painted murals as a way to pay back Nipsey Hussle.
   B. People painted murals to praise and honor Nipsey Hussle.
   C. People painted murals to help sell Nipsey Hussle’s music and clothing.

4. What piece of evidence reveals that the “memorial in our court is somewhat of a gravesite”?
   (Paragraph 17)
   A. “Mitchell shed tears while talking about Hussle’s positive influence over her students at Crete Academy and the community.” (Paragraph 16)
   B. “She was not only taken aback by the mural at her school, but also by the many others around town.” (Paragraph 16)
   C. “‘But I saw an individual who didn’t have his phone out. He had his shoulders up, his head down.’” (Paragraph 17)
Activity 2: Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions and then write your responses in the space provided.

1. How can art be used to honor someone’s memory? (4 sentence minimum)

2. What are other ways people can honor a person? Why do you believe this is a good way to honor someone’s memory? (You can use an example you have seen in the media or experienced. 4 sentence minimum.)
Activity 3: The Mural Effect
Take a look at the examples of murals below and think about how they add to the sense of community where they are displayed. Use the space to the right to explain your thoughts on whether a mural would be a good addition to your community and why. You should include what you think a mural in your community might look like.

Would a mural be a good addition to your community? Explain why or why not. If you do, include what you think a mural in your community might look like. Below are some sentence starters to help you.

A mural would be a good addition to my community because___________________.
This mural would represent___________________.
It would show images of_______________________.

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Activity 4: Exploring Ethos/Artistic Expression

Ethos is the characteristic spirit of a culture, era, or community as displayed by its beliefs and aspirations. Take a look at the chart below and choose any 1 of the 5 choices below to complete. Use the details below each option to help you in case you aren’t familiar with what it is.

You can select to complete these in any way you see fit whether it is paper & pencil (or using other art supplies you may have), cutting magazines or pictures, a collage format, or something outside the box:

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<th>Collage</th>
<th>Word Clouds</th>
<th>Mural</th>
<th>Concrete Poem</th>
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| Choose a theme based on your community. Then compose your collage from various materials (such as paper, cloth, or wood) glued on a surface. You can cut pictures from magazines to make a collage - can be made by grouping various items together. | www.wordclouds.net
A website you can use if you have internet capability. Wordle generates “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. | Create a mural of your own to represent your community. A mural is a large painted picture, an extremely enlarged photo, or a repeated wallpaper pattern that represents a landscape or other subject usually fixed directly on a wall or ceiling. | Sometimes also called ‘shape poetry’ - is poetry whose visual appearance matches the topic of the poem. The words form shapes which illustrate the poem’s subject as a picture, as well as through their literal meaning. | Write your detailed plan or proposal of a mural you would like to see in your community and include why and how these best represent your community. |
A TALL LONELY OAK TREE WINDS HOWL LEAVES SHAKE ACorns CLATTER DOWN TO THE DRY GROUND