

# news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

## 'New Moon'

In a recent interview with MTV News, screenwriter Melissa Rosenberg talked about how she turned the novel "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" into a movie. For example, she added action scenes, killed off a character differently and dropped some background information from the original story written by author Stephanie Meyer. Pick a news story from today's eEdition that you think might make a good movie. Write a one-page outline of how you envision the movie, including a summary of the plot and the cast of characters. You can take creative license and make some changes to the factual story.

Learning Standard: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively.

2

## Doctrine

In a speech on December 2, 1823, U.S. President James Monroe introduced a new foreign policy that became known as the Monroe Doctrine. In groups, research in books or online and write a paragraph explaining what the Monroe Doctrine is and the way it addresses how different nations interact with each other. Then find a news story in the eEdition that deals with relations between two countries. Is there a connection to the Monroe Doctrine in the issues of the story? Present what you found to the class and discuss.

Learning Standards: Understanding narratives about major eras of American and world history by identifying the people involved, describing the setting and sequencing the events; comprehending the past.

3

## Civil Rights

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. In groups, use the eEdition, Internet and other sources to make a presentation to the class explaining what impact her action had in the civil rights movement and in American history. After all the groups have presented, discuss what similarities and differences there were among the presentations. Summarize the things groups stressed most in the style of an eEdition or newspaper story.

Learning Standards: Selecting events and individuals from the past that have had global impact on the modern world and describing their impact; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

4

## Comedy

Filmmaker Woody Allen was born on December 1, 1935. He began his career as a comedy writer, coming up with jokes for other comedians. Then he became a stand-up comic and a movie actor, writer and director. He has also written funny books and short stories. Following Allen's lead, write your own humorous story or skit based on an article in the eEdition.

Learning Standard: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, persuasive essays, resumes and memos.

5

## Holiday Search

In December there's lots of holiday news, because Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa all take place in the month. Use the search functions of the eEdition to see how the holidays are being covered in the news. Search each day for a week for the words "Christmas," "Hanukkah," "Kwanzaa"

and the general word "holiday." Log your findings and record how many times each word is used each day and whether the word is used in a story, event listing or photo caption. Make a chart to show your findings. Then do additional research and find out the ethnic or religious makeup of your community. Finish by writing a paragraph or short paper analyzing if the eEdition coverage of the different December holidays reflects the makeup of the community.

Learning Standards: Using appropriate technology resources to access information and communicate electronically; describing uses of technology in daily life; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

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For Tomorrow