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“Great Depression Gallery Walk”

Coach Haley

The U.S. History Class

Spring 2016

**Introduction:** First off, feel fortunate for what you are about to witness. You are about to go through one of the most devastating economic crisis in U.S. history. The Great Depression did not discriminate nor have sympathy for the lack of awareness American people had during the flamboyant twenties. As you walk through the gallery, pay close attention to detail. Try to understand the viewpoint of the photographer and people experiencing the Great Depression.

***#1 The Start: October 29, 1929***

1. Describe what is going on in the photo.
2. What historical event is taking place?
3. What do you notice about the people on the sidewalk? Pay attention to their facial expressions. What are they doing? Why are there so many people? What are the emotions traveling down that sidewalk?
4. What sticks out to you in this picture? Have any questions about anything?

***#2- The Urban Poor: New York, New York 1930’s***

1. Describe what you see.
2. The men in this photo are lining up for what?
3. How do you think the men in this line feel? What is interesting about the line? Why?
4. What do you think the photographer wants her audience to feel?

***#3- Alternatives for out-of-work: Chicago, Illinois, 1930***

1. Describe what you think is happening in this photo.
2. Why is the guy sleeping?
3. What was the purpose of these young people dancing?
4. What are your thoughts about the action that is taking place in this photo? Why did the photographer feel like this photo would attract an audience?
5. Comments?

***#4- Earning Money Any Way One Can: Virginia, Oct. 1935***

1. Describe what you see in this picture.
2. What do you notice about his apple-selling set-up? Look at the details. What does his operation look like? (Think childhood)
3. What does the geography in this picture tell you about The Great Depression?
4. Does anything catch your eye in this photo?

***#5- Forgetting for a While: West Virginia, 1935***

1. Describe what you see in the photo.
2. Why are the kids huddled up together? What are they looking at?
3. Why do you think these kids are not in school?
4. How do you think movies and other entertainment change lives in The Great Depression?
5. Do you see anything that peaks your attention?

***#6- Despair: California, 1936***

1. This is perhaps one of the most famous pictures of The Great Depression. Describe the photo.
2. The woman in this photograph is called “A Migrant Mother”. With your historical knowledge of The Great Depression (Thanks to ME…Ha), tell me why the photographer would give the women that nickname? What does it mean?
3. How old do you think the women is in the photo? What else do you notice about the people in this photo? Where is the man?
4. How would you help people like the “Migrant Mother”?
5. Any additional comments?

***#7- The Rural Poor: Fort Worth, TX, 1936***

1. What do you see in the photo.
2. List the hardships The Great Depression had caused this family?
3. What do you notice about the children?
4. What is the car being used for?
5. What is the man doing to the car?
6. Notice anything interesting?

***#8- Contrast in Lifestyles: Los Angeles, California, 1937***

1. Describe what’s happening in this photo.
2. What is ironic about this picture?
3. How does the billboard explain the unequal distribution of wealth?
4. What in this picture may signify FDR’s New Deal?
5. Do you see anything interesting?

***#9- The Dust Bowl: Elkhart, Kansas, May 21, 1937***

1. What historic disaster is about to hit this small Kansas town?
2. Describe the scene as the storm approaches. Do the people look worried? Why are there so many cars in town?
3. Does the guy in the photo look worried? Should he be?
4. One word to describe the background?
5. What problem will this town face after the storm?

***#10- Hitting Bottom: San Francisco, CA, Feb. 1937***

1. What do you see in the photo.
2. What are the two men doing in the street?
3. What is ironic about this photo?
4. What do you think the photographer wanted her audience to understand about the photo?
5. Do you see anything that catches your eye?

***#11- Lending a Hand: New York, New York, 1938***

1. Describe what you see.
2. How do you think he got that food?
3. Describe the body language he is portraying in the photo?
4. How does this photograph make you feel?
5. Anything interesting or questions?

***#12- Trying to Pull Out: Transylvania, Louisiana, 1939***

1. Describe what you see in the photo?
2. What do you notice about the people in this photo?

1. What is she trying to do with the children?
2. Describe the physical setting.
3. How would it make you feel if you had to learn in this environment?
4. Does anything standout to you in the photo?