

Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times

October 22, 2015

Article: “A PINT-SIZE VIEW of the American West”

Monday, October 19, 2015 in the e-Edition of The Seattle Times, Main, A1

Pre-Reading:

Before reading the article, read the title and look at the photographs. What does it mean to be “pint-sized”? Which is your favorite photograph in this article? Why? Do you enjoy taking photographs? What kind?

Vocabulary:

As you read, look for the following vocabulary words that appear in today’s article. Write down what you think the words mean based on the “context,” or how the words are used in the sentence in which they appear. Next, look up the definitions in a dictionary and see how close your guess was for each word.

busker

looming

tracking

apt

environs

launched

knee-high

technical

prodigy

phenom

portrait

powwow

oasis

clamored

Comprehension:

1. What does Hawkeye Huey say is one fun thing about photographs?
2. How old is Hawkeye?
3. What kind of camera does Hawkeye use?
4. At last count, how many Instagram followers did Hawkeye have?
5. Which of Hawkeye's photographs drew more than 6,000 Instagram likes?
6. Why is this a "big week" for Hawkeye?
7. What does Hawkeye's father do?
8. What type of work is Aaron Huey known for?
9. Why did Aaron Huey supply his son with an instant camera as opposed to another type?
10. Which of Aaron Huey's photos launched the public's fascination with his son?
11. Why does Aaron Huey say his son's photographs are so powerful?
12. What type of worldwide recognition has Hawkeye Huey received?
13. What type of lessons does Aaron Huey hope Hawkeye Huey gains from his photography experience?

Post-Reading:

Read the following passage from the article and discuss the following questions in a group:

"Last year, he decided to take Hawkeye, then 4, on a four-day exploration of the area around Slab City, Calif., a remote desert oasis where 'free spirits' soak up winter warmth in all manner of impromptu housing. Huey's wife, Kristin Moore, was a bit nervous at first about her husband heading into strange environs with their then-only child. But she's grown more comfortable as dad and son have taken on other adventures around the American West."

Do you think it's a good idea for a parent to take his or her 4-year-old child on a four-day exploration in a remote desert oasis? Why or why not? Why do you think Kristin Moore was nervous about her husband's and son's travels? Why do you think she has grown more comfortable? Would you like to go on this trip with your parent?

Building Language Skills:

Read the following passage, and complete the activity below:

"Aaron Huey's work has taken him around the globe, to mountaintops, deserts, combat zones and many locations far off the beaten path. He's known for his walk across America and his extended documenting of the Lakota Sioux of South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation."

What parts of the world would you like to visit and document? Would you prefer to photograph, write about these places, or both? Why? Just as Hawkeye Huey has a Kickstarter campaign to fund his project, write an essay detailing what places you would like to visit, why you would like to visit them, and how you would document them.

Comprehension Question Answers:

1. Hawkeye Huey says one fun thing about photographs is that you can lay them out on a table and talk about what's in them, or pick them up like a deck of cards and invent a game with ever-changing rules.
2. Hawkeye is 5 years old.
3. Hawkeye uses a Fujifilm Instax.
4. At last count Hawkeye had 125,000 followers.
5. Hawkeye's photo of the looming Devils Tower formation in Northern Wyoming drew more than 6,000 likes.
6. If Hawkeye's Kickstarter campaign goes well, a book of his photos will be published by the time he graduates from Kindergarten next spring.
7. Hawkeye's father, Aaron Huey, is a Seattle-based National Geographic photographer.
8. Aaron Huey is known for his walk across America and his extended documenting of the Lakota Sioux of South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
9. The instant camera has a minimal number of settings, and photographs that start to appear within a minute after the shot, good for kid-sized attention spans.
10. Aaron Huey's photo of Hawkeye holding the camera against his right hip and gazing intently, almost frowning, as he appears to be sizing up the target for his next shot launched the public's fascination with his son.
11. Aaron Huey says his son's photographs are so powerful because they are honest, direct and reflect a connection with people and places.
12. Hawkeye has been named one of Rolling Stone's top 100 Instagrammers, and Time magazine's 50 Instagram accounts to follow. National Geographic Proof and the Huffington Post have highlighted his work.
13. Aaron Huey hopes that, rather than be a professional photographer, his son takes the lessons learned in photography — vision, creativity, connection and responsibility — and apply them to an interest he selects himself.