

Especially for students & teachers to use in November...

Four Square: NIE Activities for the Basics

Language Arts

On **November 29, 1832**, Louisa May Alcott was born. She wrote *Little Women* based on her own family's experiences during the Civil War. If you have not read it already, read a few chapters of this book or a few chapters of another Alcott novel, *Jo's Boys*. Then write a short story about your family describing some events that you all have shared.



Give each of your family characters other names but describe their personalities and appearances just as they really are.

Math

November 6 is election day. On November 7, find the local voting results in your newspaper. Create charts showing the percentage of votes garnered by every candidate in every race in your area. If there were propositions on the ballot, show those results as well. When you are done, summarize each race in the form of a headline using a precise, action verb. For example, "Dewey Buries Truman," or "Jones Squeaks By Smith." Use your words to educate and entertain!



Science/Technology

On **November 8, 1922**, Dr. Christiaan Barnard was born. He performed the first human heart transplant in 1967. Find out how a heart transplant is done and draw a diagram to explain. How long did the first transplant patient live? What are the survival rates for



people who have transplants today? Write a feature article with what you learn and include your diagram and any other art to help explain the process.

Social Studies

On **November 5, 1857**, investigative reporter Ida Tarbell was born. Read about Ida's life and summarize her accomplishments. If Ida Tarbell were alive today, what social or political situations do you think she would be investigating? Look through your newspaper for such a cause, and do some



"muckraking" of your own by discovering the facts behind the headlines and expressing them in a letter to the editor.

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National Learning Standards Addressed: *Language Arts* #4 Adjustment of the use of spoken, written and visual language ... to communicate effectively with a variety of audiences. #12 Use of spoken, visual and written language for ... learning, enjoyment, persuasion and the exchange of information. (*National Council of Teachers of English/International Reading Association List of Standards for the English Language Arts, 1996.*) *Science/Technology* Levels K-12 Personal health. Abilities of technological design. Structure and function in living systems. (*National Academy Press, National Science Education Standards, 1996.*) *Math* #1 Numbers and Operations. #4 Measurement. #9 Connections. (*Principles and Standards for School Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Discussion Draft, 1998.*) *Social Studies* Strand II Time, continuity and change. Strand X Civic ideals and practices. (*Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies, 1999.*)