**Griot Project-**

 **Due: Next Friday-October 18,2013**

**Objectives:**

* Students will identify the important role of Griots as storytellers in Mali and their responsibility to pass on traditions from one generation to the next.
* Students will recognize that most of what we know about Mali's history comes from oral accounts that were handed down from generation to generation.

**Background Information:**

In Mali, historical events and special occasions are honored.  The role of the Griots, or storytellers, in Mali is to preserve the history of this country by passing on its traditions with oral accounts.  These accounts can be in the form of a song, a poem, or a riddle.  The responsibility of the Griot to collect, record, and share information with his fellow villagers was important to the early empire of Mali and is still valued today as a means to preserve the history and customs of this country.

Griots not only share oral accounts of historical events, but they initiate the celebration of yearly activities such as the planting and harvesting seasons as well.  They will sometimes present their stories in the form of a theatrical drama and have the villagers dress up to represent certain characters.  The villagers wearing the masks will not have any speaking parts; they will merely act out the motions and emotions of the story.  The Griot always narrates these productions and is the only one allowed to speak.  The job of the Griot is well respected and is passed down each generation from the Griot to his oldest son.

**Project Guidelines**

You must write a story, poem, or song that tells of a tradition that your family always honors. Examples would be Christmas, Thanksgiving, or Easter traditions. It could even be something like eating together as a family every night.

* Stories should be at least 2 paragraphs long (5 sentences in each paragraph)
* Poems should be at least 12 lines long
* Songs should be at least 10 sentences long.
	+ All should be in story form. “One Christmas I woke up and….”
* All must be **HAND WRITTEN!**
* The student will share their traditions/writing with the class. Please remind them that Griots were oral storytellers, but they will be allowed to read it to the class.

This will count as a 50 point project grade

Spelling and presentation will count in their grade.