English 10: Creation Myth Project

First, with your group, select a Native American creation myth to read from the list below:

- Apache Creation Story
- Grandmother Spider Steals the Fire
- The Jicarilla Genesis
- Crow Brings the Daylight
- In the Beginning (Yuchi)

The selection is first come, first serve, meaning that each group will be working with a different story.

Part I. Summary and NA Literary Aspects
Read through your NA creation myth, and then create a summary of the story that is one page in length. After you are finished writing your summary, examine your story for NA literary aspects. Explain how each of these features of NA lit appear within your story.

Part II. Analysis
After completing part one, answer the following questions using your story in complete sentences. Be sure that you provide both support and explanation for your answers.

1. What are two themes that you recognized within your story?
2. Who or what event is most associated with these themes? What does this reveal to you as the reader?
3. What ‘big idea’ do you feel the author is trying to communicate about each theme?

Part III. Songs
Once you’ve finished with your analysis, then you need to think of two songs (from any time period) that captures the mood, tone, or theme of your story. For each song, write a 1 page justification for how it relates to your tale (use specific lines). Be sure to print out the clean lyrics for each of your songs and attach it to your justification.

Part IV. Visual Aid
Using Prezi or PowerPoint, summarize the above parts into a presentation that you will give to the class. Include graphics that relate to the plot and theme of your story.
### Creation Myth Project
#### Rubric

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Part I</th>
<th>4</th>
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<tr>
<td>The summary is one page in length.</td>
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<td>The summary accurately describes the events of the creation myth.</td>
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<td>Spelling and Grammar do not inhibit the reader from understanding the text.</td>
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<th>Part II</th>
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<td>All questions are answered in complete sentences.</td>
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<td>Support and examples from the creation myth are given for each response.</td>
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<td>The responses are written in a clear, logical manner.</td>
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<th>Part III</th>
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<td>Two songs are selected for their relation to theme, mood, or tone of the creation myth.</td>
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<td>There is a half page analysis for each song selection, explaining how/why the song is related to the story.</td>
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<td>The writers’ rationale is both clear and logical.</td>
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<th>Part IV</th>
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<td>Visual aid summarizes the findings and conclusions from each part.</td>
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<td>Graphics, colors, and features all reflect a carefully considered and polished project.</td>
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<td>Presentation to the class summarizes and explains all parts clearly while utilizing the visual aid.</td>
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Total _______/48
Example Ketoh

Part I.

Summary: What is the story about?

Native American Literary Aspects:
Kinship with Nature: The Ketoh story emphasizes the connection with nature in many ways. The first is the character Begochiddy and his relationship to the sun. The author describes him as “the golden-haired child of the Sun.” This description of Begochiddy as an actual relation to the Sun, literally playing on the concept of kinship. Also, the idea that Begochiddy taught everyone in the Third World how to care for plants and the right way to live showed that he valued the appreciation and treatment of nature.

Harmony with Nature: Begochiddy recognized the importance of his creatures living in harmony with the worlds he took them to, so he was willing to try a different world once he saw that his creatures couldn’t live properly in Worlds one and two. He also recognized that the discord and disharmony with nature that was encountered in World Three when the floods began was the result of the fox’s actions.

Creation Myth: This story describes how Begochiddy created humans and creatures and sought a world in which they could live peacefully. It is the creation of the world that we know today.

Part II.

1. Two themes that I recognized in the story were peace and trickery. Begochiddy was looking for a world of peace for his creations, one in which they could all live together happily. The other theme, trickery, mostly revolved around the Fox and his role in the creation myth.
2. I think the fact that Begochiddy was associated with the theme of peace allows me to infer that he is a noble and good leader. He cares about the happiness of his creations, shown mostly by his ability to leave the unsuitable worlds. As stated above, the Fox was mostly associated with trickery. He tried to trick the others by hiding the water child from them, thus in turn angering the Water Gods and forcing Begochiddy and the others to flee to the Fourth World.
3. I think that the bid idea behind the theme of peace is that it’s essential to a productive environment and society. With chaos, destruction, or discord, a world and its inhabitants cannot function at all, as seen with the Cat People in the Second World. The idea behind the theme of trickery can be interpreted simply as there are always those who would ruin happiness by lying, but are most often found out. I think that the Fox, the trickster archetype of NA literature, is sent to cause trouble to see how the other characters will adapt to the problem.
Part III.

“Changes” by David Bowie

Looking at David Bowie’s song changes, I think that it connects with *Ketoh* in many ways. First off, considering just the title of the song highlights a strong connection. The creatures and Begochiddy are constantly changing worlds, in search of something that offers a better agreement with their existence. Begochiddy and the others meet many “dead end streets” on their journey to find a new world. When they find the Third World, they seem to have “got it made,” however “it seemed the taste was not so sweet,” because the Water Gods began to flood the world. This song works to highlight Begochiddy’s need to find peace and harmony within the world through his constant changing of the worlds. The song also works in conjunction with the role of the Fox and the obstacle he creates for the others, who are “trying to change their worlds.” Begochiddy and the others overcome the Fox’s obstacle, and remain “immune” to his tampering.
Changes
David Bowie

I still don't know what I was waiting for
And my time was running wild
A million dead-end streets
Every time I thought I'd got it made
It seemed the taste was not so sweet
So I turned myself to face me
But I've never caught a glimpse
Of how the others must see the faker
I'm much too fast to take that test

Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes
(Turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-Changes
Don't want to be a richer man
Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes
(Turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-Changes
Just gonna have to be a different man
Time may change me
But I can't trace time

I watch the ripples change their size
But never leave the stream
Of warm impermanence and
So the days float through my eyes
But still the days seem the same
And these children that you spit on
As they try to change their worlds
Are immune to your consultations
They're quite aware of what they're going through

Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes
(Turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-Changes
Don't tell them to grow up and out of it
Ch-ch-ch-ch-Changes
(Turn and face the strain)
Ch-ch-Changes
Where's your shame
You've left us up to our necks in it
Time may change me
But you can't trace time
“Imagine”
John Lennon

The overall theme of this song relates strongly to the theme of peace within the creation myth story. Lennon’s calling for peace and harmony in a world of discord and chaos. He urges people to join him, and other, who are creating a world based on brotherhood and peace. This song rings true to many messages of the 1970’s, however, that is what allows it to connect so well with the creation myth. This peace, after all, is what Begochiddy and the others are searching for. Without it, they are discontent and encounter many problems such as war, separation, and deceit. At the end of the creation myth, Begochiddy teaches everyone to respect and live harmoniously with the new world, “sharing all the world.” His goal was to have the world “live as one,” without distinction between nature and man (as well as creatures). Each are parts of a sacred whole, which work together to form the right world.
Imagine
John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today

Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace

You, you may say
I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world

You, you may say
I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And the world will live as one