Urban Legends

Senior Podcast Audio or Video Assignment
January 14

1. Pick up return papers on back table
2. Get a sheet of notebook paper or use iPad for notes today and tomorrow
3. Update information on test
4. Hand back Frankenstein books
5. All make up work by Thursday
6. Introducing the Urban Legend
7. Prelude to Hound of the Baskervilles
Have you ever heard of this?

- A 'feral' or wild child is a human child who has allegedly been brought up in the wild, separate from society and isolated from contact with other people.
Urban Legends

- Well-documented and seemingly trustworthy accounts of feral children are rare, but do exist.
- Many researchers dismiss them as folklore, with no basis in fact.
Legends through the ages

- There are various causes for the phenomenon, it may be the result of the child being abandoned by parents, or being intentionally isolated from society, perhaps in a locked room.
Kaspar Houser

• Based on the renowned, 19th-century German legend. Who was Kaspar Hauser?
• Kept in a dungeon his entire childhood, Kaspar turned up in Nuremberg in 1828.

• He was sixteen, barely able to talk or walk, a virtual "wild child."
• The mystery unfolds as he quickly learns to talk, read and write, and therefore articulate his memories.

• As his past is uncovered, so too are theories surrounding his origins which hint that Kaspar may very well be the true heir to the Dukedom of Baden.
• The strange plot thickens when he's murdered just a few years later, in 1833.
• Why was Kaspar Hauser kept in a dungeon all those years and who murdered him?
• Was he truly German royalty as many believed?
Memmis Le Blanc

- Look up this name (with a friend or solo) – skim and find some facts
- Jot down five fun facts....
What did you learn?
Wolf Girl of Devil's River

Now try this one:
Wolf Girl of Devil's River

Share what you learned in a five sentence summary
Defining Urban Legends

- A modern myth.
- A mysterious story
- Storyteller insists is true
- Not much evidence to back up
- Never happened to the storyteller but someone removed from them.
What are urban legends

- Urban legends are contemporary stories of ordinary people, events and incidents.
- These stories are told as being true events that recently happened.
• In addition, urban legends often contain local names to further reinforce the validity of the story.
The contemporary settings and events also serve to “update” old urban legends, as well as old cons and scams.
The power of urban legends is in society’s willingness to repeat – and pass on – a story that has not been validated.
• Since we usually trust the source, and recognize the setting, the urban legend often sneaks past our normal skepticism.
• As such, we may even tell the story to our sister or other friends, further perpetuating the legend.
Now let’s try it-truth or dare

• 3rd hour Count Off  
  1-8

4th Hour Count Off  
  1-16

Your legend will correspond to your group number.

• Go the following website.  
  http://www.snopes.com/info/top25uls.asp

• Read the hoax or legend that corresponds to you number.

• Prepare to present to class in convincing way.

• iPads must be off for the telling of the legends

• You have 15 minutes
Popular Urban Legends

iPads Away
Storytelling

• As each group retells the story, it is your task to determine if the story is TRUE, FALSE or PARTIALLY TRUE
After each telling

- Indicate true = thumb up
- Indicate false = thumb down
- Indicate partially true = thumb to the side
Process - written response

- Why do you think people find urban legends so believable?
- What makes shows like Ancient Aliens, Fact of Fiction, or Urban Legends popular?
- Why or why wouldn’t you fall for a hoax?
Urban Legends - chiller

- Watch the following 22 minute video.
- Follow along and see if you can tell which story is true and which one is false.
On your own – Due Jan 22(3rd)/Jan 23 (4th)

• Find an interesting Urban Legend or Hoax that reflects our region. You may choose to do Michigan or Indiana or Midwest.
• MUST BE SUBMITTED ON PAPER-MLA format (200 pts)
• Find a legend
  ▫ Retell the legend (cite source)
  ▫ Illustrate the legend
  ▫ List top three elements that make it seem real
  ▫ One counter argument or one argument a skeptic would make
Urban Legend Project

Due Monday, January 27
Presenting the project
Models and specification
Models

- Watch a podcast (Stuff they don’t want you to know)
- Listen to a podcast (Five Hoaxes and Useless Information)
- Make your own podcast or animated PowerPoint to present to the class.
Specifications

• One to five persons per project
• Maximum – 4-7 minutes
• Retell the myth
• Present the FACTS
• Present the skeptic point of view
• Leave it open-ended for the viewer/listener to decide
• Cite your sources
Special Effects

• Include music and graphics to enhance and add mystery
• Provide a build up of suspense
• Do not give the definitive answer
• Rubric will be on line
• Presentation Due Dates-Monday, January 27