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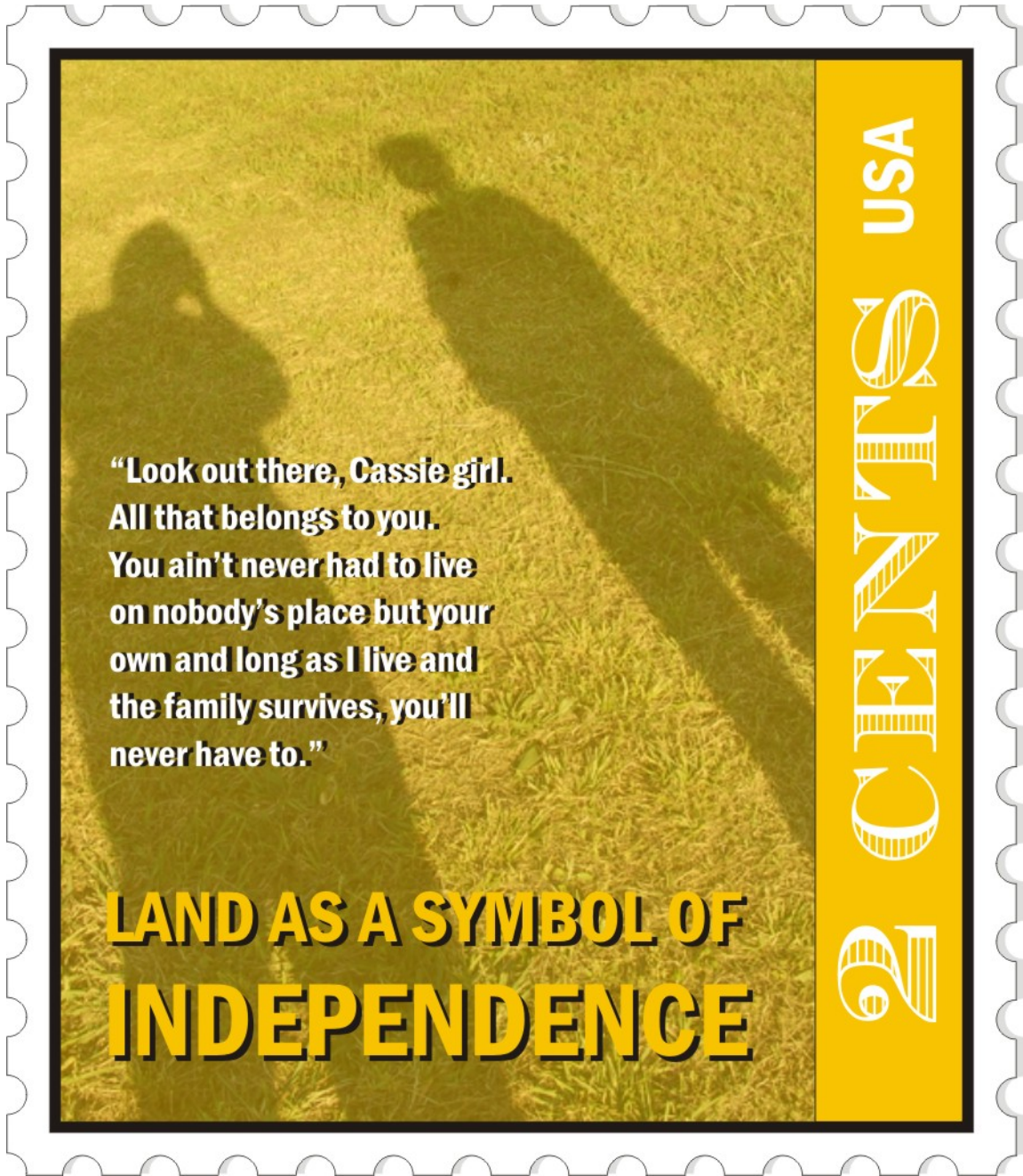
**Extension Project**  
**Mid Term Assignment**

**Project Overview:**

This project is an example of the Commemorative Stamp Project from the following Literature Circles Resource website:

<http://www.litcircles.org/Extension/extension.html>. The four stamps that I designed exemplify four major themes that I found the most compelling in the book, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor. These themes, independence, racism and prejudice, the importance of family, and injustice were repeated again and again throughout the book.

The hardest part of the project was planning what themes and quotes I wanted to use for my project. I took quite a bit of time thinking about how to best represent each theme with a single image. I decided I wanted my stamps to be as realistic as possible in its design, so I researched how much stamps cost in the 1930's. I was surprised to find that they cost 2 cents. I then thought about what colors I should choose for my stamps. Using specific colors is an important tool to help convey a certain tone or mood. Another difficult task was finding images to characterize a theme that was a central focus throughout the book. I used CorelDraw to design a template for my stamps and Dreamstime.com to download images to help illustrate and explain the themes of the book.

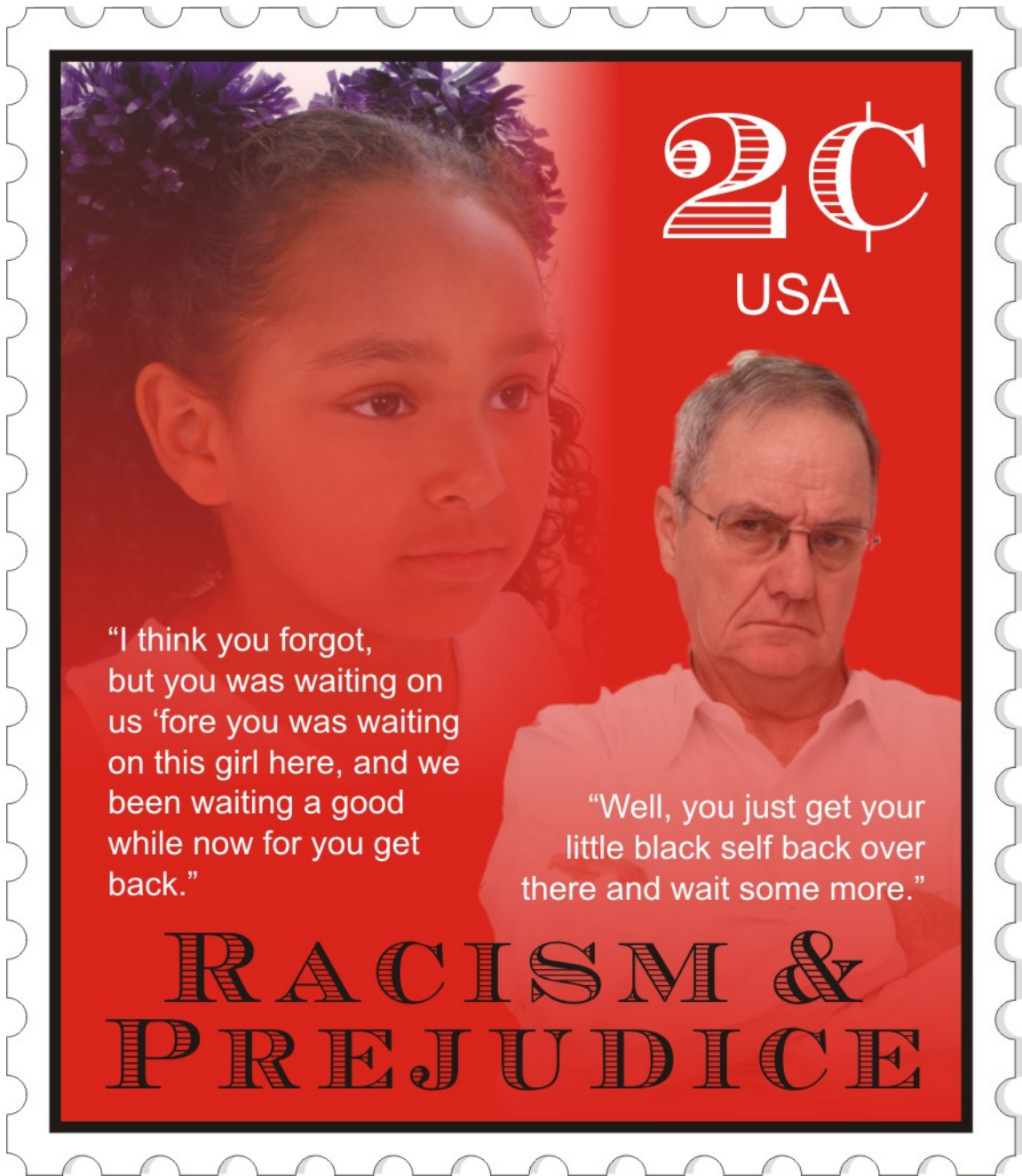


**“Look out there, Cassie girl.  
All that belongs to you.  
You ain’t never had to live  
on nobody’s place but your  
own and long as I live and  
the family survives, you’ll  
never have to.”**

**LAND AS A SYMBOL OF  
INDEPENDENCE**

**2 CENTS USA**

**STAMP #1**



**STAMP #2**



# THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

"...that fig tree's got roots  
that runs deep, and it belongs  
in that yard as much as that  
oak and walnut... Just keeps  
on growing and doing what  
it gotta do. It don't give up...  
There's a lesson to be learned  
from that little tree, Cassie girl,  
'cause we're like it."

2 CENTS  
USA

STAMP #3

**INJUSTICE**

**2¢**

**“What had happened to T.J. in the night I did not understand, but I knew that it would not pass. And I cried for those things which had happened in the night and would not pass.”**



**“I cried for T.J.  
For T.J. and the land.”**

**STAMP #4**

## **Symbolism and Imagery:**

### **Stamp #1 - Land as a Symbol of Independence**

The land was a symbol of independence and freedom for the Logan family. An important element of their independence was being able to survive hard times to pay the mortgage and keep “Logan land.” The importance of the land was repeated again and again throughout the book by Big Mama, Mama, and Papa; “we won’t lose the land.” For the Logans, their land was inherently linked to their family.

The yellow background color symbolizes the joy, happiness, optimism, and hope that the Logan family feels about their land and history. The image depicts the shadows of Cassie and Papa cast over their land. The sense of pride in the ownership of their land stems from their strong feeling of family. I chose the shadows to represent their strong connection to the land of past, present, and future.

### **Stamp #2 – Racism and Prejudice**

The theme of racism and prejudice permeates throughout the book. In the South during the 1930’s racism and prejudice against black people was at its high point. One young character of the book, Cassie, experiences racism, for the first time. She soon is exposed to a “world” she had never known.

The red background symbolizes the danger, aggression, and anger Cassie faced in Mississippi, 1933. The image is one example of the prejudice Cassie was exposed to throughout the book. The scene was taken from an incident which occurred when she, her brother, Stacy, and their friend T.J succumbed to waiting over an hour to be waited on as white people were served first.

### **Stamp #3 – The Importance of Family**

The one theme that remains constant throughout the book was the importance of family. It is evident through the Logans actions and stories that love and dedication to the family is the driving force that compels the characters to act the way they do. From Big Ma’s fond memories of her husband to the characters’ willingness to risk their lives and even death to protect the family demonstrates their firm belief that family is more important than anything else.

The fig tree is a metaphor used to describe the Logan family. Like the fig tree, the Logans were surrounded by powerful and commanding individuals that over-shadowed them. However, despite the overwhelming odds the Logans continued to grow and flourish. The metaphor of the fig tree is also seen in the strong family roots they maintain, roots that grew strong and deep through the care and nurturing of family both near and far. The Logans see the land as the anchor for their own family tree.

#### **Stamp #4 – Injustice**

Stamp #4 illustrates injustice in its most severe form. The dark background symbolizes the remorse, anger and sadness signifying how unjust the “world” was, where there is one set of laws for blacks and another for whites. The image of the “scale of justice” is a representation of the unfairness that existed in the South. The gun positioned in the backdrop highlights the feeling of finding blame, guilty or innocent. One such example occurred at the end of the book where T.J. was accused of beating two shopkeepers simply because of the color of his skin. The townspeople didn’t care if he was guilty or innocent, they simply wanted to punish or kill T.J. and his family because they were sure he was the one to blame. The sad part was that no other townspeople dared to stop them or wanted to stop them.

#### **Quotes**

“Look out there, Cassie girl. All that belongs to you. You ain’t never had to live on nobody’s place but your own and long as I live and the family survives, you’ll never have to.” **Chapter 1, pg. 7**

I think you forgot, but you was waiting on us ‘fore you was waiting on this girl here, and we been waiting a good while now for you get back.”

Well you just get your little black self back over there and wait some more.”  
**Chapter 5, pg. 111**

“...that fig tree’s got roots that runs deep, and it belongs in that yard as much as that oak and walnut... Just keeps on growing and doing what it

gotta do. It don't give up... There's a lesson to be learned from that little tree, Cassie girl, 'cause we're like it." **Chapter 9, pg. 205-206**

"What happened to T.J. in the night I did not understand, but I knew that it would not pass. And I cried for those things which had happened in the night and would not pass.

"I cried for T.J. For T.J. and the land." **Chapter 12, pg. 276**

### **Self-Assessment**

### **Commemorative Stamp**

Give yourself a score by deciding if your project demonstrates:

4	3	2	1
<b><u>all</u></b> criteria	<b><u>most</u></b> criteria	<b><u>some</u></b> criteria	<b><u>few</u></b> criteria

#### CRITERIA:

- 4 The theme you chose to represent the book you read is stated on the stamp.
- 4 You created an illustration of represent this theme.
- 4 You made good use of color.
- 4 Your stamp includes a price.
- 4 You have written a paragraph of your stamp.
- 4 Your paragraph includes an explanation of how your illustration represents the theme.
- 4 Your paragraph is neatly typed using words that are accurately spelled, with correct grammar and punctuation.



**I give my project an A, because** I have met and exceeded all the criteria listed in the rubric. Instead of choosing one major theme and designing one stamp, I chose four themes I thought were most important to the book and designed stamps for them.

**One thing I am proud of is** being able to find the right image to help convey the themes. I can't tell you how many images I viewed on Dreamstime.com to find the right image to help illustrate the stamps. I also thought it was a good idea to design a stamp with a value that was representative of the time period (2 cents).

**One thing I'll do differently next time is** read the directions more carefully and save myself a lot of extra work. I also might have spent more time researching how stamps looked in the 1930's and spent more time making my stamp design more authentic to that time period.