

American Literature  
*A tale of Two Schools*  
Projects

Directions: As a group select one of the following projects concerning issues raised in Chapter 8: *A Tale of Two Schools*

1. The "English language only" movement has become a hot topic in many communities. Research this movement in the library or on the Internet. Collect explanations and opinion statements from all sides of the issue (visit [www.nea.org/society/engonly.html](http://www.nea.org/society/engonly.html) for one viewpoint). Present your findings to the class. Divide your group into Side A and Side B. Write on the board "Resolved: English should be the official language of our community." Flip a coin to determine which side is Pro and which side is Con. After debating the topic for 15 minutes, switch sides.
2. Explore Latino diversity. Use the Internet to investigate and define various terms that Hispanic residents of the U.S. use to identify themselves, such as Chicana/Chicano, Hispanic, Latina/Latino, Mejjicana/Mejjicano, Mexican American, Nuyorican and Tejana/Tejano. Create a map of North and South America and use colors, lines, arrows or other means to show the geographical or cultural origins associated with these identifiers. Hold a class discussion on the importance of group names. Who gets to decide which names to use for cultural groups in the population?
3. A new school in Westminster bears the names of Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez. For whom are the schools in your community named and why? What cultural groups are represented in the names of your local schools? What kinds of achievement have been honored in this way? Make a poster to show your findings, using as many visuals as possible (such as a snapshot of the school sign, a portrait of the person the school is named for, etc.). Identify some unsung heroes in your community and submit their names to the school board as candidates for naming future schools.