In the novel *Touching Spirit Bear*, the protagonist Cole Matthews goes on a journey of self-discovery, eventually creating a totem pole to explain what he has learned about himself. Similar to Cole, you will make a totem pole about your life. You will select 3 animals and 3 objects that represent your past, present, and future. The base of the totem pole should represent your past, just like what you have done in the past is the basis for your present and your future. The middle should represent your present. The totem’s top section symbolizes your future. In addition, you will present your totem pole to the class.

**Guidelines:**

- Projects will be due the week of October 10th. Your project will be due on the day that you are to present your project. First, I will let students sign up who want to present first. Next, I will randomly draw who presents next. You will be assigned your due date on September 19th/20th. There will be a 10 point deduction per day late for projects submitted past 3 days after the due date. Projects submitted 4 days past the due date can earn a maximum of half credit.
- This project is a major test grade; therefore, the totem pole needs to reflect time and effort worthy of a test grade.
- This project is only limited by your creativity and is *not* about who can spend the most $.
- You may use any materials that you want, which may include clay (**beware** - clay is the most difficult material to work with due to cracking and crumbling – research/look at reviews to see which is the best), fabric, paper (one restriction - *no* origami), metal, or wood.
- I highly suggest doing an Internet search for “totem pole projects, school” to help you think of ideas to create your own totem pole.
- Each item on the totem pole must be 3-dimensional. Minimum of 6 items on the totem pole including at least 3 animals and at least 3 symbols. Each item must be handcrafted by you. Do not purchase preassembled or pre-made items. You may not use purchased stuffed animals that you chop off their heads and attach to the totem. This is unfair and an insult to the students who handcrafted their items. Failure to meet these requirements is a 10-point deduction per item not made by the student.
- The totem pole must be at least 1 foot in height with a maximum of 2 feet in height and able to stand without tipping over. Failure to meet these requirements is a 10-point deduction per requirement.
- The totem pole does not have to have a base, but the base helps with stability. The base can count for a maximum of 1” of that 12” minimum.
- You are free to use any colors and are not restricted to the traditional totem pole colors.
- For the animals, you need to stick to the traditional animal meanings (reference the websites below).
- For the symbols, you are free to select any that fit your personality (for example – a cross, a hunting bow, German flag, a family crest, the Bible, a lightning bolt, a guitar, a soccer ball, hiking boot, etc.)
- I am providing a rubric for you, as well as showing you “A” projects in class, so that you are clear on what an “A” totem pole will be. The rubric needs to be turned in with the totem pole.
- If you need help with your project or supplies, get with me early – not the day before the project is due.
- Be creative and show your personality!
- Helpful totem pole reference sites that you may want to use, but you are not required to use:
  - [http://members.home.nl/t.overberg1/Totem_Pole.htm](http://members.home.nl/t.overberg1/Totem_Pole.htm)
  - [http://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/native-american-symbols/totem-pole.htm](http://www.warpaths2peacepipes.com/native-american-symbols/totem-pole.htm)