

# **Santa's Sidekick Project**

1. Read the op/ed article from the *New York Times* entitled, "Why the Dutch Love Black Pete." This article can be found at [swicks.weebly.com](http://swicks.weebly.com) under English II—Reading Nonfiction—Nonfiction Texts.
2. Then open the document "Santa's Sidekick Questions" on the same page under "Close Reading Questions and Note Formats." Answer the questions from the reading you have just done, and then research the sidekicks below to complete the rest of the sheet. You may have to research these names in connection with the holidays in order to get the correct search results:

The Krampus

Snegurochka

La Befana

Babushka

The Yule Lads

3. Now select a partner to work with for this project and open the "Create an American Sidekick" document under "Assignments." You and your partner will work together to create a sidekick for Santa for the United States. Complete this worksheet together—one copy per group.
4. Decide what your sidekick looks like and create a colorful poster that illustrates what your sidekick looks like. On this poster, include the object that you decided represented your character.
5. Both partners should create a short one-page story in Microsoft Word that explains the legend of your character, his purpose, and his representational object. This is an assignment you should do on an individual basis—so your paper should not be identical to your partner's.
6. Create note cards for both you and your partner to present this new American sidekick to the class. Each of you must give a portion of the presentation. This speech will be short—no more than 3 minutes—so organize your notes for maximum impact.
7. E-mail your Santa's Sidekick Questions, your Create an American Sidekick document, and your one-page story to [sheila.adkins@adrian.k12.mo.us](mailto:sheila.adkins@adrian.k12.mo.us). The story should be attached as a word document—not copied and pasted into the e-mail itself.