Communism

Madeleine L'Engle is the author of many science fiction/fantasy youth novels. In *A Wrinkle in Time*, the main characters travel to another planet called *Camazotz*. On this planet everybody is the same and does the same thing. L'Engle modeled the society of *Camazotz* after *communism, a political and social system found in several countries in our world where the government controls everything for the people*. Communism and the fight against it is what caused the Cold War between Russia (U.S.S.R.) and America, as America tried to keep communism from spreading to other countries. In the 1960s, America feared that communism would destroy all democratic societies.

Both sides created massive *propaganda* campaigns to convince people that their society model was the best. America used the comic book hero *Captain America* as a symbol of America and democratic capitalism and the ability to triumph over communism.

Work in *pairs* and follow these directions to go to the *Out of This World (A Wrinkle in Time)* Literary Café resource web page to learn about communism vs. capitalism-based societies and propaganda.

**Directions:**
1. On the iPad mini, open up *Safari*. Click the open book icon (Bookmarks).
2. Click the link labeled *Communism*.
3. Read the *What is Communism?* box to learn the definition and characteristics of communism.
4. Read the *Definition of Propaganda* box to learn what propaganda is.
5. Click the link *Communism Scriptographic from 1961* link in the *Resources* box. Read through this anti-communism document, focusing on understanding what communism is, how it affects the people and the differences between communism and capitalism. *Remember: This was created in 1961.*
6. Click the *Poster links* in the *Propaganda Posters and Comic Book Covers* box to view real anti and pro communism posters from the 1950-60s. *Notice the vocabulary and passion of these posters either for or against communism.* NOTE: Red was the color used to symbolize Communism which is why it was called the *Red Menace* or the *Red Hand* in many propaganda posters.
7. Click the *Captain America comic book cover* links in the *Propaganda Posters and Comic Book Covers* box to view U.S. comic book covers from the 1960s. During that time, Captain America was the symbol of anti-communism and the triumph of America over communists everywhere.

**ACTIVITY:** (Each student individually) Using all that you have read and viewed in this cafe, create your own mini poster or comic book cover *either for or against* Communism. Use the vocabulary you have learned from these resources to make your mini-poster authentic for the time period. You may include Captain America, or other symbols you have viewed, in your poster or comic book cover if you wish.