

BULLS OF WALL STREET

8th Grade Template & Requirements

Background Information

Born in Norwalk in 1820, LeGrand Lockwood made his fortune in New York City. As a young man, he started working as a clerk for a brokerage firm on Wall Street. By age 23 he had already become partner in his own firm. The firm traded railroad stocks, including the Michigan Southern Railroad, later known as the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, of which Lockwood was vice-president. Lockwood's reputation on Wall Street was so well-regarded, that in 1863 he was elected treasurer of the New York Stock Exchange. During the Civil War, Lockwood made a trip to Europe to sell U.S. war bonds to support the Union. The sale of government bonds and his involvement in the railroad business made him one of the richest men in the country.

Theme: *What would you do with \$10,000,000?*

The time: 1869. The place: Norwalk, CT. Picture yourself as a son or daughter of LeGrand Lockwood. Imagine that you have just inherited a fortune of \$10,000,000. Remember that the value of money changes over time, and that the same amount would be worth at least 10 times that in today's money. In addition to this fortune, you have also inherited the Mansion, a priceless art collection, and several businesses including railroad companies.

Using this information, write a fictional story about your experiences as an heir or heiress. Be sure to research what life was like in Norwalk and throughout the country during the 1860s. Questions to consider include:

- How would you use this money? How would you invest it?
- Would you sell the Mansion or decide to live in it?
 - Would you use the Mansion for another purpose?
- How would you manage your inherited art collection?
 - Would you keep, sell or donate it?
- How would you run your father's companies?
- What was happening in America during the 1860s?
 - LeGrand financially supported the Union Army. How would you show your support?

Requirements

- No longer than 4 pages, double-spaced and 12-point font.
- Students are encouraged to research the topic on their own and to visit the Museum to gather information for their story.
- Papers due by Friday **June 9th**

Awards and Prizes

- First, Second and Third prizes will be granted to the writers of the best papers with cash and other prizes.
- The Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 19th.