

Subject Area: English Language Arts
Unit Title: Creative Writing
Grade Level: 6-8
Lesson Number: 1 of 12

Duration: 60 minutes
Date: [Insert Date]
Teacher: [Insert Teacher Name]
Room: [Insert Room Number]

Curriculum Standards Alignment

Content Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6-8.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear structure.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6-8.5: With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

Skills Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.6-8.1: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and whole-class) to build on others' ideas and express their own clearly.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6-8.5: Demonstrate a range of vocabulary and apply nuances of word meanings to maintain effective style and tone in written and spoken language.

Cross-Curricular Links:

- Language Arts: Reading, Speaking, and Listening
- Technology: Digital Tools for Writing and Editing

Essential Questions & Big Ideas

Essential Questions:

- What are the key elements of a short narrative?
- How can I use descriptive language and dialogue to enhance my writing?
- What are the benefits of editing and revising my work?

Enduring Understandings:

- Effective writing is a process that involves planning, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.
- Descriptive language and dialogue are essential tools for creating engaging and believable characters and settings.
- Editing and revising are crucial steps in the writing process that help to clarify and strengthen ideas.

Student Context Analysis

Class Profile:

- Total Students: 25
- ELL Students: 5
- IEP/504 Plans: 3
- Gifted: 2

Learning Styles Distribution:

- Visual: 40%
- Auditory: 30%
- Kinesthetic: 30%

Introduction to Short Narrative Writing

Welcome to the world of creative writing! In this lesson, we will embark on an adventure to write our first short narrative. This welcome pack is designed to guide you through the process of writing and editing a short story, and to provide you with the skills and confidence to become a creative and expressive writer.

Short narrative writing is a fun and exciting way to express yourself and tell stories. It involves using your imagination to create characters, settings, and plots that engage and captivate your readers.

Icebreaker Activity: "My Favorite Story"

To get started, let's do an icebreaker activity to get to know each other and share our favorite stories. Please take a few minutes to think about your favorite story, whether it's a book, movie, or personal experience.

Then, share your story with a partner or in a small group. Be sure to listen actively and ask questions to show your interest and engagement.

Understanding the Key Elements of a Short Narrative

A short narrative typically includes several key elements, including plot, setting, characters, and theme. The plot is the sequence of events that make up the story, while the setting is the time and place in which the story takes place.

Characters are the people or animals that play a role in the story, and the theme is the underlying message or idea that the story conveys. Let's take a closer look at each of these elements and how they work together to create a compelling story.

Activity: "Identifying the Key Elements of a Short Narrative"

Now it's your turn to identify the key elements of a short narrative. Read the following story and see if you can identify the plot, setting, characters, and theme.

Then, discuss your answers with a partner or in a small group. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your claims.

Developing Characters and Plot

Now that we've explored the key elements of a short narrative, let's dive deeper into developing characters and plot. Characters are the heart of any story, and they should be believable and relatable.

To create well-rounded characters, you'll want to consider their motivations, goals, and conflicts. What drives them? What do they want to achieve? What obstacles do they face?

Activity: "Creating a Character Profile"

Let's create a character profile to help us get started. Please take a few minutes to think about your character's traits, motivations, and goals.

Then, share your character profile with a partner or in a small group. Be sure to ask questions and provide feedback to help each other develop your characters.

Using Descriptive Language and Dialogue

Descriptive language and dialogue are essential tools for creating engaging and believable characters and settings. Descriptive language helps to paint a picture in the reader's mind, while dialogue reveals character traits and advances the plot.

Let's explore some techniques for using descriptive language and dialogue effectively in your writing.

Activity: "Writing a Descriptive Paragraph"

Now it's your turn to practice using descriptive language. Please write a descriptive paragraph about a place that is special to you.

Be sure to use sensory details to bring the place to life. Then, share your paragraph with a partner or in a small group. Be sure to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Editing and Revision

Editing and revision are crucial steps in the writing process. They help to clarify and strengthen your ideas, and ensure that your writing is error-free and engaging.

Let's explore some techniques for editing and revising your work, including checking for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors, and improving clarity and coherence.

Activity: "Editing and Revising a Short Narrative"

Now it's your turn to practice editing and revising. Please take a few minutes to review a sample short narrative and identify areas for improvement.

Then, revise the narrative using the techniques we've discussed. Be sure to share your revised narrative with a partner or in a small group. Be sure to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Conclusion

Congratulations! You've completed the lesson on writing your first short narrative and editing for fun. Remember that writing is a process, and it takes time and practice to develop your skills.

Keep writing, and don't be afraid to take risks and try new things. Most importantly, have fun and enjoy the process of creating and expressing yourself through writing.

Assessment

Participation and engagement in class activities: 20%

Quality of written work: short narrative and editing exercises: 40%

Self-assessment and reflection on progress: 20%

Final project: a completed short narrative: 20%

Additional Resources

Glossary of literary terms:

- Narrative: a story or account of events
- Plot: the sequence of events in a story
- Character: a person or animal in a story
- Theme: the underlying message or idea of a story
- Descriptive language: language used to describe people, places, and things
- Dialogue: conversation between characters in a story

List of Recommended Reading

"The Gift of the Magi" by O. Henry

"The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe

"The Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum

Writing Prompts and Exercises

Write a story about a magical kingdom

Write a story from the perspective of an animal

Write a story using only 50 words

Extension Activities

Writing a script or play

Creating a comic strip or graphic novel

Writing a personal narrative or memoir

Safety Considerations

Ensuring a safe and supportive learning environment

Encouraging respect and kindness among students

Providing guidance on online safety and digital citizenship

Teacher Reflection Space

Pre-Lesson Reflection:

- What challenges do I anticipate?
- Which students might need extra support?
- What backup plans should I have ready?

Post-Lesson Reflection:

- What went well?
- What would I change?
- Next steps for instruction?