



Passports

Writing, Author, Illustrator

Resource Guide grades K-4

Description:

Ah, the joys of writing! Students will learn first hand about the profession of writing and illustrating from a children's book author. Hearing about the author's background and passions will inspire students to follow their creative interest! In this lesson, students will learn all about the elements of a story.

As we learned from Robert D. San Souci, writers get their ideas from experiences such as travel, discussions with family and friends, and from other stories told recently or even thousands of years ago.

Lesson at a glance:

Students will use stories they already know to generate new stories. Students will work through the creative process of brainstorming, investigation, and critical thinking to understand that tales are told differently around the world. Students will recreate a famous tale or write a sequel to an original story and then create illustrations.

Lesson Outcomes:

The students will:

- Learn about the writing process;
- Use creative thinking to write and draw their own book;
- Investigate different books that utilize a similar story with variations.

Materials:

- Multiple versions of different books with the same story - Cinderella, The Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, or another story they like
- Graphic Organizer – Story Map, Comparison Chart, Writing Organizers
- Access to clip art or materials for illustrations or art materials for making illustrations

Activity:

Enter into a classroom discussion of classical fairy tales. Create a list of these fairy tales.

Basic Fairy Tale information:

Lead the discussion to the fact that the fairy tales we are familiar with today were first told long ago. The basic framework of the story was passed down through generations. They were not written down; instead, the storytellers would travel to many places, repeating the story to local people. In many other retellings, the stories were often adapted to accommodate the culture and customs of the audience. As a result, there are many versions of popular fairy tales throughout the world. Here are some basic facts about fairy tales that you can use for classroom discussion:

- Fairy tales usually begin with “Once upon a time.” or “Long ago.”
- Characters can be talking animals, kings, queens, princes, and princess.
- Fairy tales often contain magic.
- Fairy tales usually have a good and bad character.
- Fairy tales usually have happy endings.

Show students samples of the original classical tale of the Three Little Pigs. Discuss the differences and similarities between the story and other versions of the classical tale. Create a comparison chart of the different versions of the Three Little Pigs and post this in the classroom. Suggested points of comparison: characters, setting, events, and/or outcome

Decide if you would like your students to write a sequel to the tale or create their own version of a fairy tale they like. Design a template for students to brainstorm their information and write their own fairy tale. Make sure the students have the basic information for the story included in their version.

For example, here are some different ideas for a new version of the Three Little Pigs:

- Create a modern day version of the Three Little Pigs- city apartments, skyscrapers, or alternative houses other than straw, sticks, and wood.
- Create a cultural version of the Three Little Pigs based on the students’ own cultural heritage and beliefs.
- Retell the story from the perspective of the “Bad guy.”
- The Three Little Pigs do not catch the wolf and search for the wolf until the end of their days!

Ask students to brainstorm additional possibilities.

Have students write their stories using the document, *A Recipe for Story*, by Kenn Nesbitt. Students will illustrate their story with pictures they cut out of magazines, drawings or paintings.

Create a class collage on the wall with each student's story and illustrations.