

Tell-a-Tale
Short Story Writing Lesson Plan
Mentor Text

Objective

Students will use a mentor text to explore the story elements of character, setting and plot. Students will then outline, write and revise a short story for the Tell-a-Tale Short Story Contest.

Materials

Mentor Text
Character Writing Exercise Handouts
Plot Writing Exercise Handouts
Pencils

Directions

Read and Discuss Mentor Text

1. Read a mentor text.
2. Identify the main character in the story.
3. Discuss questions about the main character, such as:
 - a. What is their name?
 - b. What do they look like?
 - c. How do they act?
 - d. What are their strengths and weaknesses?
 - e. What things do they like or dislike?
4. Working independently, students fill out a character chart to create an original character.
5. Identify the setting in the story
6. Discuss questions about the setting, such as:
 - a. Where is the story set?
 - b. When is the story set?
 - c. What are some key details of the setting?
7. Working independently, students choose a setting that fits the character from their independent character chart exercise.
8. Identify the story problem.
9. Identify the solutions the character tries to solve the story problem.
10. Working independently, students invent a story problem their character might encounter then brainstorm solutions their character might try to solve this problem.

Writing

1. Students will write a scene that introduces the setting, main character and story problem from their independent writing exercises.
2. Students will write a scene that shows their character trying a solution that is unsuccessful and how the character felt afterwards.

3. Students will write a scene that shows their character trying a solution that is successful and how the character felt afterwards.
4. Students will illustrate their story.

Revision

1. Working one-on-one with an adult or in small groups of peers lead by an adult, students will revise their stories to add more details and to correct grammar and spelling errors.