



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

1st Grade

From Scenes to Series: Writing Fiction

In our final writing unit, students will be instructed on series writing! In the first groupings of lessons, teachers will lead students, somewhat step by step, through the process of creating a pretend character, and creating a series of books. The final groupings of lessons will have students do this again, but with greater independence.

About this Unit

In the first set of lessons, students will be encouraged to write many realistic fiction stories quickly, using all they already know about writing small moments and bringing stories to life. Teachers will introduce the notion that characters face a bit of trouble—and that writers then get their characters out of trouble to give readers a satisfying ending. Students will plan and act out their stories to bring their lively imaginations to their serious work as writers. Teachers will also be working with students on word choice and spelling in their writing.

In the second and third sets of lessons, students will be taught how series writers put their characters into more than one book, and more than one adventure. Teachers will work with students on such things as how to write with detail and how to make their characters talk for different purposes. The teacher will use *Henry and Mudge* with students as a model for this type of series writing. Teachers will spotlight how to show, not tell, and how to write chapters so that students write a clear beginning, middle, and end to their story.

In the final grouping of lessons, students will prepare to publish their series. This will include working on small details such as illustrations, creating a “meet the author” page to introduce themselves to their readers, and editing and revising in meaningful ways to make their work publication-ready. The unit ends with a grand finale, during which students will showcase their writing.

Additional Information

Students will continue to participate in a writer’s workshop during a daily, dedicated writing time. The daily workshop is set up so that students will be presented with a mini-lesson and then be sent off to write as the teacher confers with students both individually and in small groups.

Attached to this newsletter are a grade level specific checklist and an example of proficient student writing for this unit’s genre of writing. Please contact your student’s teacher should you have any further questions.