



**WOODRIDGE**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

## **Common Core Writing Newsletter**

### **Narrative: Crafting True Stories**

*This unit will introduce third graders to the upper-grade writing workshop. Students will begin to write in a well managed, productive workshop setting that focuses on drafting, revising, and editing of narrative stories.*

#### **About this Unit**

Students will begin the unit by examining actual examples of writers' notebooks. Third graders will begin to compare and contrast the difference between a writers' notebook versus a writing folder. They will begin to self monitor their writing by using checklists and rubrics while they generate personal narrative entries in their writers' notebook.

As students begin exploring their writers notebook they will begin to focus on developing one of their notebook entries into a seed idea. They will begin to learn the art of story-telling as they prepare to turn their seed idea into a magnificent story. Students will begin to learn how to use paragraphing to organize their writing.

Towards the middle of the unit, students will choose one of their seed ideas to take through the writing process. Students will be diving into different strategies and ways to elaborate and make their writing come to life. There will be a main focus on slowing down a moment in time. Students will learn that great stories include step-by-step actions, dialogue, thoughts and feelings.

Finally, students wrap up the unit by self assessing using the rubrics and checklists. They will explore the difference between storytelling versus summarizing. During this final portion of the unit students will pick a draft and take it to the publishing stage.

#### **Additional Information**

Students will 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.