



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

The Arc of Story: Writing Realistic Fiction

This unit will help students determine the small moments in their lives worth writing about. Students will begin to imagine stories from ordinary small moments.

About this Unit

This realistic fiction unit will introduce students to the fact that ideas for fiction stories are everywhere. Writers will begin to realize that fictional stories can stem from ordinary moments in time. Students will begin to collect story ideas in their writers' notebook. A lot of time will be devoted to creating plans for how their stories might go and collecting Small Moment stories.

In the next set of lessons, students will move forward in the writing process. A story arc will be introduced to the students as a crucial planning tool for their fictional stories. Writers will take time to examine the elements of fictional stories: characters, setting, plot. Students will spend a lot of time developing strong characters and detailed settings to their stories.

The final set of lessons will allow students to progress more independently as they write a fictional stories. Students will focus on drafting, deep revision work and editing.

Throughout the entire unit students will be encouraged to use a variety of resources to evaluate their own writing and set goals for moving forward.

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.