



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

3rd Grade Unit 4

Once Upon a Time: Adapting and Writing Fairy Tales

This unit aims to move students through three narrative writing cycles. They will compose two adaptations of fairy tales as well as their own original fairy tale. In the final bend of this unit, they will pick one of these three stories to bring to publication.

About this Unit

Students will begin this unit by co-writing an adaptation of “Cinderella” with the teacher. After co-writing with the teacher, students will begin adapt a fairy tale of their choice. Students will focus on re-reading, studying, and annotating a classic version of the fairy tale of their choice.

Next, the students will begin studying “Little Red Riding Hood” and “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”. They will begin to analyze storylines and they’ll notice the qualities of fairy tale writing. As they complete this close study of fairy tales they will begin to think about which parts of the tales they could adapt. Finally students will write their own fairy tales to share with their classmates.

Along the way students will be learning qualities of good writing and work toward student independence. Students will study mentor texts and their own writing to enhance their writing skills. While studying these texts students will specifically be looking for small moments, narrators, setting, dialogue, characters, figurative language.

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.