

GoldenWords

Lesson Plan for Public Use

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OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

GoldenWords is a creative writing camp for children in 5th-8th grade with the purpose of providing the seeds for creative self-expression through writing, as well as preparing the next few classes of students for their upcoming careers in higher education. Created due to the perceived lack of student experience in creative writing, this program is meant to foster interest, improve writing skills, and perhaps found the next generation of renowned authors and writers.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

- 5th-8th grade writing level
- Focus on grammar and spelling
- Write a competent story

OBJECTIVES

- Improve creative writing skills
- Create a finished, original short story
- Have *fun*

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Thank you for your interest in this free program. If at all possible, please credit my project during your use of this lesson. For questions or concerns, please email me at gsgacreative@gmail.com and be patient with my response.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencils
- Art Supplies
- Composition Notebooks
- Worksheets
- Coloring Pages
- Construction Paper
- 3-Whole Punch
- Beach Ball
- Beads & Thread
- Tape
- Scissors
- Glue
- Hat
- Party Bags
- Plastic Eggs
- Special Story Items

VERIFICATION

Steps to check for student understanding

- Ask
- Review work
- Offer tips and suggest edits

YOUTUBE LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNtP8xbyqeY&t=19s>

DAY 1

ACTIVITY 1 - Introductions and Outlines

Students will introduce themselves to the rest of the camp and learn the writing basics.

Standing in a circle, students will toss a beach ball to each other. Whoever catches the ball must then say their name and two facts about themselves. The ball must be passed to everyone in the circle so everyone introduces themselves. After, students will be introduced to the four major parts of a story, the *Start, Build, Climax, and End*. They will create a folded outline to fill with keywords and continue after receiving their writing prompt.

ACTIVITY 2 - Hat Prompts

Students will draw a prompt from the hat to inspire their first story.

A hat is filled with multiple slips of paper, all stating a short writing prompt. In their composition notebooks, students must then fill at least one page with a story that follows the prompt they have drawn.

ACTIVITY 3 - Character Worksheets

Students will give form and color to five characters for their final story.

Using the worksheets for character design, students will write out the defining characteristics of their characters and color the figures accordingly. On the back page, they will write a short biography for each character, detailing some backstory, relationships, etc.

DAY 2

ACTIVITY 1 - Story Item Hunt

Students will go on a hunt for hidden special items.

Items will be hidden within close range in party bags. Students will go on a search for these items; once everyone has found one item they will receive the details of that which they have found: name, power, use, etc. They must then include this item in their final story.

ACTIVITY 2 - Story Switch

Students will play a game involving a timed writing session.

Every five minutes, students will switch pages with each other and then continue the story they have received. Everyone must contribute to every story and then read their own once each page is completed.

ACTIVITY 3 - Character Hunt

Students will go on a hunt for the side characters in their story.

Characters will be hidden in party bags within a short-range. The bags will house a picture and a short description. Students must include these characters in their final stories and may trade once settled back down.

DAY 3

ACTIVITY 1 - Character Worksheets

Students will flesh out their new story characters.

Using the worksheets for character design, students will write out the defining characteristics of their characters and color the figures accordingly. On the back page, they will write a short biography for each character, detailing some backstory, relationships, etc.

ACTIVITY 2 - *What's In A Name* Lesson

Students will complete a lesson on the importance of names in a story.

Using a reading and the following worksheets, students will be offered an in-depth perspective on the importance of names in writing with the purpose of them being inspired to give their own characters great names.

ACTIVITY 3 - Summary Writing

Students will come up with the basic idea of their story.

In their composition notebooks, students will write a summary of their ideas and the characters involved. Once finished, they may color or read.

ACTIVITY 4 - Story Worksheet

Students will begin editing their stories.

Using the worksheet provided, students will work both individually and as a group to get the full picture and edit their stories.

DAY 4

ACTIVITY 1 - Editing Review

Students will review and edit their stories a final time.

Consulting the marks made on their stories and the opinions of their fellows, students will recreate their stories into a final, polished draft.

ACTIVITY 2 - Manuscript Copying

Students will write their final stories.

Using the worksheets provided, students will copy the final versions of their story for printing. They will be asked to leave the main title blank for the moment.

ACTIVITY 3 - Crafting an Awesome Title Lesson

Students will follow the directions in this mini-lesson.

Using the worksheets and information provided, students will be challenged to consider the interest of their audience while crafting the title of their story.

ACTIVITY 4 - Beginning Book Covers

Students will start work on their book covers for their final project.

Using the paper materials provided, students will begin creating the jacket of their books. They will use white and colored paper for a streamlined look and decorate the top of their covers accordingly. The title, author, and summary aspects will be glued on the outside of their cover.

DAY 5

ACTIVITY 1 - Cover Binding

Students will put their books together.

After receiving their printed copies of their written projects, students will use a three-hole punch and thread to bind their books together.

ACTIVITY 2 - Reading

Students will share their final stories with each other.

After creating their finished books, students will read their stories aloud.

ACTIVITY 3 - Book Review

Students will write a review of their fellows' projects.

Using the worksheet provided, students will conduct an analysis of the others' writing. They are encouraged to write both positive remarks and constructive criticisms.