LESSON PLAN: CREATIVE WRITING - SCARY STORY WRITING PROMPTS

Grade: 9th & 10th grade
Subject: ELA/Narrative Writing
Date:

Topic: Horror Stories
Time: One Hour

Learning Objectives: Narrative Writing (Oregon English Language Arts and Literacy Standards):
9-10.W.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
9-10.W.3a Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view or perspectives, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
9-10.W.3b Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
9-10.W.3c Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
9-10.w.3d Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
9-10.W.3e Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative (Oregon Department of Education, 2019)

Materials Needed:
- Creative Writing Story Prompts (included)
- Writing Utensils & Paper
- Audiobook: Out To Get You: 13 Tales Of Weirdness And Woe by Josh Allen (audiobook available through JCLS Hoopla)
- Speaker

Lesson Focus and Goals:
Students will be able to write a short horror story based on a book cover using elements of writing including descriptive words to set a tone, character and plot development, and point-of-view.

Structure / Activity:
Preparation (1-2 minutes)
- Write questions for thought and discussion on the board before playing the audiobook:
  “What made the story scary?”
  “Who was telling the story?”
  “What are some words that set the tone?”
  “What was the resolution?”

Hook (11 minutes)
- Start by playing the first story of Out to Get You: 13 Tales of Weirdness And Woe by Josh Allen, “Vanishers”

Discussion (9 minutes)
- Direct the attention to the questions displayed. Discuss briefly. Hand out story prompt packet.

Brainstorming Short Story Ideas: (5 minutes)
- Give students 5 minutes to brainstorm with a partner, writing notes in their Creative Writing Prompt packet

Writing (30 minutes)
- Allow students 30 minutes to write their story/scene

Wrap-up/Shareout (5 minutes)
- For the remaining 5 minutes, ask for a student volunteer to share out their story/scene and which book cover they chose as inspiration.

Creative Writing Story Prompts: Horror Edition

Take a look at the four book covers listed below. Write a scary scene based on the book cover or use the prompts to write a short story using the prompts provided.

**Writing Prompt:** You are riding on the bus and fall asleep. When you wake up, everyone is gone. What happened?

**Book:** *Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden

**Writing Prompt:** You and a group of friends are sitting around the campfire and you hear a low growl...

**Book:** *Campfire* by Shawn Sarles
Writing Prompt: What magical powers would you have if you could choose? What would you do with those powers?

*Book:* *The River Has Teeth* by Erica Waters

Writing Prompt: You were taking a family photo, when you felt a rush of cold air. When you see the picture afterwards, you notice a person was standing behind you.

*Book:* *In the Shadow of Blackbirds* by Cat Winters
Tips for Writing Your Story:

**Setting:** Make sure you set-up your story first and paint a picture for your audience. Set the scene by adding in some descriptive words such as: dreary, gloomy or ominous.

**Character:** Include a relatable character in your story. This could be based on yourself or on someone close to you. When describing things through the character’s eyes, try to use words that connect your reader to their five senses: taste, touch, smell, hear, or see.

**Point of View:** Think about who you want to be telling your story: the point of view. Is there a narrator? Is it told from the main character’s perspective?

**Plot:** If you choose to write a scene, your plot doesn’t have to include a climax. If you write a short story, what is the challenge that your character overcomes or a pivotal turning point in your story?

**Ending/Resolution:**
One of the greatest fears is the fear of the unknown. Adding something mysterious to your story or an aspect of suspense can leave your reader feeling...unsettled and wanting more.

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**Write down some notes:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting w/ descriptive words:</th>
<th>Characters/Point of View:</th>
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<tr>
<th>Main Event/Climax:</th>
<th>Ending/Resolution:</th>
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**Happy Writing!**

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