Scope and Sequence for Literary Adventures for Kids Writing Classes

Program Title: Creative Writing I - Semester Course

Grade Level(s): Middle School, High School

Subject Area: Language Arts: Creative Writing

Course Description:
This semester-long creative writing course helps students discover their writing voice, develop confidence, and strengthen their storytelling skills. Through weekly live instruction, creative writing exercises, journaling, and guided writing projects, students explore techniques such as descriptive writing, dialogue, characterization, setting, and plot development.
Students progress from short creative exercises to planning, drafting, revising, and completing an original fictional story. The course emphasizes creative expression, constructive feedback, and developing an enjoyable writing practice.

Educational Objectives:
Students will:

- Develop a unique writing voice and gain confidence expressing ideas through creative writing.
- Practice freewriting and journaling to encourage creativity and establish consistent writing habits.
- Apply literary techniques such as imagery, sensory details, dialogue, mood, and tone.
- Understand narrative structure, including plot development, story arcs, and conflict.
- Create believable characters with distinct personalities, motivations, and backgrounds.
- Develop settings that contribute to a story's atmosphere and plot.
- Plan and organize an original fictional story using writing organizers.
- Practice drafting, revising, and editing to improve their writing.
- Evaluate creative writing through self-assessment and constructive peer feedback.
- Complete an original fictional story that demonstrates the writing techniques learned throughout the semester.

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Scope and Sequence for Literary Adventures for Kids Writing Classes (Continued)

Course Structure:

Weekly Live Writing Class: Students participate in a weekly Zoom class featuring direct instruction, examples, discussions, and group activities. Classes are recorded for students who cannot attend live. Occasionally, a prerecorded lesson may replace a live meeting.

Independent Writing: Students complete writing activities and projects throughout the week at their own pace, applying the techniques introduced during class.

Read, Write, Learn: Weekly lessons include assigned readings, writing practice, and preparation for live instruction.

Writing Projects: Students complete creative writing assignments, story planning organizers, and revision activities that build toward their final fictional story.

Weekly Breakdown

Week 1: Finding Your Writing Voice

- Focus: Introduction to creative writing and discovering personal writing voice.
- Activities: Freewriting, journaling, creative writing exercises, and building confidence as a writer.

Week 2: Show, Don't Tell

- Focus: Using descriptive writing to communicate actions, emotions, and experiences.
- Activities: Practice showing emotions through actions and replacing general statements with specific details.

Week 3: Sensory Details and Imagery

- Focus: Using the five senses and imagery to strengthen descriptive writing.
- Activities: Creative writing exercises using sensory details, imagery, and descriptive language.

Week 4: Dialogue and Character Voice

- Focus: Writing realistic dialogue and developing distinct character voices.
- Activities: Dialogue exercises, character conversations, and using dialogue to reveal personality and emotion.

Week 5: Mood, Tone, and Atmosphere

- Focus: Understanding how language creates mood, tone, and atmosphere.
- Activities: Creative writing exercises exploring word choice, setting, and emotional impact.

Week 6: Poetry and Creative Expression

- Focus: Exploring poetry, figurative language, and personal expression.
- Activities: Poetry writing, experimenting with creative language, and developing individual writing styles.

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Scope and Sequence for Literary Adventures for Kids Writing Classes (Continued)

Weekly Breakdown (Continued)

Week 7: Story Arcs and Plot Development

- Focus: Understanding narrative structure, plot development, and story arcs.
- Activities: Explore exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Develop three story ideas with plot twists and complete a Fictional Story Roller Coaster Arc organizer.

Week 8: Character and Setting Development

- Focus: Creating believable characters and developing settings that support a story.
- Activities: Complete character development, setting development, and Story Details organizers.

Week 9: Planning and Organizing a Story

- Focus: Organizing story ideas, plot events, and character interactions.
- Activities: Develop a story outline and prepare for writing the first draft.

Week 10: Writing the Rough Draft

- Focus: Turning story plans and outlines into a complete first draft.
- Activities: Complete Scene Details Organizers, develop individual scenes, and write the first rough draft of an original fictional story.

Week 11: Self-Revision

- Focus: Improving story structure, pacing, characterization, and clarity through revision.
- Activities: Practice revision techniques, complete a Self-Revision Checklist, and submit a revised story draft.

Week 12: Peer Review and Final Story

- Focus: Evaluating creative writing, providing constructive feedback, and completing a final fictional story.
- Activities: Review three classmates' stories using a Peer Review Form, apply feedback, edit the final draft, and submit a completed original fictional story.

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Scope and Sequence for Literary Adventures for Kids Writing Classes (Continued)

Materials Used:

- Online lessons and assigned articles
- Writing prompts and journaling activities
- Story planning and development organizers
- Scene Details Organizer
- Self-Revision Checklist
- Peer Review Form
- Original student writing drafts
- Live Zoom instruction and class recordings

All instructional materials and printable organizers are provided within the course.

Assessment Methods:

- **Informal Assessments:** Participation in live discussions, creative writing exercises, journaling, and writing activities.
- **Formal Assessments:** Weekly writing project submissions, story development organizers, revised drafts, peer review assignments, and a completed original fictional story.
- **Teacher Feedback:** Submitted writing projects provide opportunities for instructor feedback and encouragement throughout the course.
- **Peer Assessment:** Students evaluate classmates' fictional stories using a structured Peer Review Form focused on story development, characterization, clarity, and reader engagement.

Program Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will have:

- Developed greater confidence in their creative writing abilities.
- Strengthened their skills in description, dialogue, characterization, and storytelling.
- Learned to organize ideas into a structured fictional narrative.
- Practiced the complete writing process from brainstorming and outlining through drafting, revision, and editing.
- Gained experience giving and receiving constructive feedback.
- Completed an original fictional story demonstrating their creative writing skills.

Duration: 12 weeks (one semester)
Final Project Options: Essay

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