


Daybreak
— LESSON PLANS —
Holiday Creative Writing

General Information

Grade Levels: K-5

Total Duration: 30-60 minutes depending on which grade level

Area(s) of Focus: Holidays, Creative Writing

Materials: “Character and Setting Cards” printables, “Holiday Story Map” printable, paper for writing books (paper with lines and area to draw, or blank paper)

Activity Description

Kindergarten Modification: For kindergarten, students can draw a picture with their character and setting and write speech bubbles or 1-2 sentences depending what level they are ready for.

Prep Work: Make multiple copies of the cards so each student has 1 character and 1 setting. Separate the character and setting cards into 2 different baskets/containers. You can also pair up students for a collaborative writing activity.



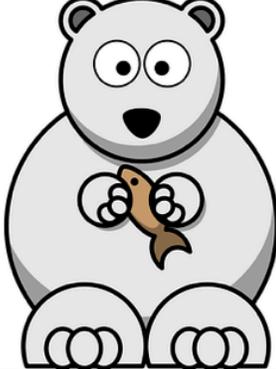
1. Explain to the students that they will be writing a creative holiday story.
2. Review that all stories have both characters who do and say things and settings, which are where events take place.
3. Tell students that they will be randomly drawing 1 main character and 1 main setting. Remind them that although there is a main character and a main setting, many stories have several characters and settings. They may add other characters and settings to the story, but the original cards must be incorporated into the story.
4. Have each student come up and draw 1 card out of the character basket and 1 card out of the setting basket.
5. Next, explain that when writing stories many writers use what is called a story board or story map to plan out their story visually before they bring it to life with writing.
6. Give each student the story map template to plan their writing. They can use just illustrations or illustrations with a few words for their plan.
7. Students write and illustrate their holiday creative writing story. This can also be done in a cartoon format.

Holiday Story Map		
Setting	Characters	
Beginning	Middle	End

After the Activity...

Have students read their story to the class. Make covers and laminate and bind the books. Display their book in the classroom library for the class to read during reading time.

Characters

<p>Santa Claus</p> 	<p>Mrs. Claus</p> 	<p>Elf</p> 
<p>Polar Bear</p> 	<p>Penguin</p> 	<p>Snowflake</p> 
<p>Snowman</p> 	<p>Reindeer</p> 	<p>Gingerbread Boy or Girl</p> 

Setting

<p>School</p> 	<p>Forest</p> 	<p>Gingerbread House</p> 
<p>Hawaii</p> 	<p>Candy Cane Forest</p> 	<p>New York City</p> 
<p>Farm</p> 	<p>Outer Space</p> 	<p>Mall</p> 

Name _____

Holiday Story Map

Setting	Characters
Beginning	Middle
	End