

"Fountains of Colour"

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Introduction:

*"We would that words
become shooting stars,
like gods,
that they would rise up from the dead page
into living forms of light and dark,
into fountains of colour."*

-William Shakespeare-

Why do we enjoy hearing or reading stories? We listen and tell short stories every day. Stories are the way for people to carry on traditions or memories. During this WebQuest, you will collect information on the subject of what makes up a good short story, how to recognize the colors that fashion them and how to craft a good one. By the end of this quest, you will not only have all the information you need to understand and discuss short stories, but you will write your own story as well.

Task:



Task 1:

Using online resources, you will explore the elements of a short story.

Working alone, visit the following sites and read & review the important short story elements:

http://users.aber.ac.uk/jpm/ellsa/ellsa_elements.html

<http://staff.fcps.net/tcarr/shortstory/plot1.htm>

Choose ONE of the online short stories below in “Resources” and read the story.

As you go through the story, use the story chart to write down where/what were the important elements in the story you have chosen.

Task 2:

Write your own short story!!!

As you read through the process REMEMBER:

"What is written without effort is read without pleasure"

-Samuel Johnston-



Process:

- First, read the RULES for writing a short story.
http://mikeshea.net/Kurt_Vonneguts_Short_Stor.html
- Next, start BRAINSTORMING and planning your story.
<http://www.mindtools.com/brainstm.html>
- Then, you might like to use one of the following sites to help you PLAN your ideas:
 - prewriting http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson311/shortstorypw.pdf
 - writing guide: <http://www.angelfire.com/sc3/babbld/guide.htm>
 - story map2 http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/storymap2_eng.pdf

1. Write TWO BEGINNINGS and share these with your group. Let them help you choose the most effective.

-For help with the beginning look at:

http://questgarden.com/60/13/2/080123185936/files/Beginning_a_short_story_.doc

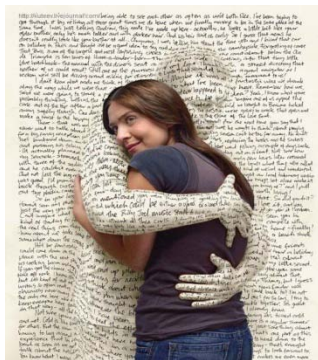
2. Write the BODY for the story.

-Remember show, don't tell. Review this site for helpful hints:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/ow04.htm>

-As you write, you should also be mindful of using language features.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE – Make your writing come alive!



The following websites will be of assistance:

<http://www.flocabulary.com/hiphoplanguage.html>

<http://www.creativejuicesbooks.com/figurative-language.html>

3. Write TWO ENDINGS and share these with the group. Let them help you choose the most effective.

For inspiration check out:

http://questgarden.com/60/13/2/080123185936/files/Ending_a_Short_Story.doc

4. REVISE and edit your story, so that it has a high level of written accuracy and is the most interesting, well-structured story that you can produce. You should work with someone in your group on this section of the work, just as a professional writer works with an editor in the refinement of their writing for publication.

Resources:



Stories to choose from:

"All Summer in a Day" by Ray Bradbury

<http://www.wssb.org/content/Classrooms/tate/content/freshman/All%20Summer%20In%20a%20Day/story.htm>

"Hallucination" by Isaac Asimov

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/2489396/Hallucination>

"Luck" by Mark Twain

http://www.manythings.org/voa/stories/Luck_-_By_Mark_Twain.html

"The Lady or the Tiger?" by Frank Stockton

<http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/LadyTige.shtml>

"The Luckiest Time of All" by Lucille Clifton

www.mmcguigan.com/documents/language/luckiest.doc

"The Broken Chain" by Gary Soto

<http://www.nexuslearning.net/books/Holt-EOL2/Collection%201/brokenchainpg1.htm>



Use this chart to analyze the story you read:

http://albion.jordan.k12.ut.us/TeacherWebFolders/Simons/Short_Stories/8_Panel_Chart.pdf

Evaluation:

You will be evaluated on **THREE** aspects of this WebQuest:

- Your participation in the group - including reading and analysing short stories, and writing, revising and editing your own short story.
- Your own analysis of one of the short stories: turn in the chart.
- Your own short story.

Please refer to the attached rubrics to see how you will be graded.

Conclusion:

Congratulations, you have completed this WebQuest! You have read and analyzed the elements of a narrative. You have engaged in group work on these stories and have been able to discuss the way different authors write. You have also had the opportunity to develop your writing skills by producing your own short story. Indeed, your words have become shooting stars and "the fountains of colour" are evident.



Credits:

This WebQuest was inspired by a 10th grade teacher's WebQuest page on short stories:

<http://questgarden.com/60/13/2/080123185936/process.htm>

Some other ideas and resources were borrowed from:

<http://english9a.tripod.com/>

The clipart included in this WebQuest came from Google images.

WebQuest was created with the help of the WebQuest Maker from:

http://www.teach-nology.com/web_tools/web_quest/