

STUDENTS AS AUTHORS

PRE-WRITING FOLDER
DESIGNED TO FACILITATE
CREATIVE FICTION WRITING

NAME _____

PRE-WRITING FOLDER

GENERAL DIRECTIONS: During the next several weeks, you will be involved in activities and assignments that will prepare you for writing a fiction piece. In order to earn a good grade on this work, you must accomplish each assignment by the due date listed. By the time you have completed this “Pre-writing Folder,” you will be ready to publish one of the best stories you have ever written! Upon completion of all components, students will draft, revise, edit and publish their final writing pieces.

In this packet, students will check off the numbered items and the teacher will check off the lettered items.

_____ 1. Bring a two-pocket folder to school.

_____ 2. Bring at least two magazines to school.

A. _____ The items listed above were completed by _____.

_____ 3. Collect at least five articles or ideas from newspapers, magazines or television that could go along with your story. These might include events, settings or characters about which you would like to write. Number each item you select and tell why you chose it in the space below.

First item _____

Second item _____

Third item _____

Fourth item _____

Fifth item _____

B. _____ The work for number 3 was completed by _____.

_____ 4. CHARACTERS For the remainder of this part of the packet, you will work on the characters for your story. Follow the directions carefully. When you finish the tasks for all of the characters, mark off number 4. REMEMBER, this is a “Pre-writing Folder.” Your ideas can be changed later.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

This page is for character number _____.

List three possible names for this character:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List at least 10 physical traits of this character:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Personality traits: List 2 of each of the following:

Strengths of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Weaknesses of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Talents and abilities of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Character's Face

Think about what this character looks like. On this page, attach a picture of a person's face from a magazine or draw a person's face that looks like the character. If you use a picture from a magazine, be sure it is someone that nobody knows.

PICTURE OF CHARACTER NUMBER _____

C. _____ The work on character number 1 was completed by _____.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

This page is for character number _____.

List three possible names for this character:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List at least 10 physical traits of this character:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Personality traits: List 2 of each of the following:

Strengths of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Weaknesses of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Talents and abilities of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Character's Face

Think about what this character looks like. On this page, attach a picture of a person's face from a magazine or draw a person's face that looks like the character. If you use a picture from a magazine, be sure it is someone that nobody knows.

PICTURE OF CHARACTER NUMBER _____

D. _____ The work on character number 2 was completed by _____.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

This page is for character number _____.

List three possible names for this character:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List at least 10 physical traits of this character:

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 1. | 6. |
| 2. | 7. |
| 3. | 8. |
| 4. | 9. |
| 5. | 10. |

Personality traits: List 2 of each of the following:

Strengths of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Weaknesses of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Talents and abilities of this character:

- 1.
- 2.

Character's Face

Think about what this character looks like. On this page, attach a picture of a person's face from a magazine or draw a person's face that looks like the character. If you use a picture from a magazine, be sure it is someone that nobody knows.

PICTURE OF CHARACTER NUMBER _____

E. _____ The work on character number 3 was completed by _____.

CRITERIA SHEET FOR CHARACTER PARAGRAPH
(Each number is worth 20 points each.)

- _____ 1. You have selected a name for the main character.
- _____ 2. In your paragraph, you have woven in at least 6 of the physical traits that were listed earlier in this packet.
- _____ 3. Both strengths of the character have been included.
- _____ 4. At least one of the character's weaknesses have been included.
- _____ 5. At least one of the character's talents and abilities has been included.
- _____ 6. You have included your name, date and an appropriate title such as "Character Description Paragraph".
- _____ 7. You have followed punctuation, capitalization and spelling rules.
- _____ 8. Computer skills are evident: Spacing, spell check, titles centering, use of bold print and underlining.
- _____ 9. Your sentences are of good quality and of varying lengths.
- _____ 10. The organization and flow of ideas is evident.

_____ Total Points divided by 200 = _____

Letter grade _____

C. PAINT A PICTURE WITH WORDS

Describe how you are going to use the following senses in your setting paragraph. Things that you could see, touch, taste, smell or hear could be linked to the items you listed on the first page to establish time.

SEE:

TOUCH:

TASTE:

SMELL:

HEAR:



Now, write your paragraph about the setting of your piece. Do a rough draft first, check it over carefully and hand in a final copy.

CRITERIA SHEET FOR SETTING PARAGRAPH

(Each number is worth 20 points each.)

- _____ 1. You have included two or more of the items you listed in Part A.
- _____ 2. At least three of the five senses have been used in your paragraph.
- _____ 3. Your paragraph shows a generous use of descriptive words.
- _____ 4. Your paragraph creates a picture in the mind of the reader.
- _____ 5. Your paragraph “leads” the reader through the setting.
- _____ 6. You have followed punctuation, capitalization and spelling rules.
- _____ 7. Your sentences are of good quality and of varying lengths.

_____ Total Points/by 140 = _____ Letter grade _____

NAME _____

PRE-WRITING FOLDER

PART THREE

THE PLOT

GENERAL DIRECTIONS: In this section of your pre-writing packet, you will think through and make decisions regarding the plot of your story. The good ideas you jot down in this packet will make your story unique and interesting.

A. What is the theme of your story? Some examples of theme are:

- family problems
- friendship
- overcoming tragedy/difficulties such as
 - death
 - disease
 - learning problems
 - moving
 - divorce
 - rejection loss of a pet
- growing up
- loyalty

Complete this sentence about the theme of your story.

My story is about

B. When writing book annotations, you are always asked to tell about the problem in the story and then explain how the problem is solved.

What is the problem in your story?

How is the problem in your story solved?

C. Now, write a numbered list of events in the order in which they will happen in your story. Include the main problem or conflict, sub-problems, at least 2 unsuccessful attempts to solve the main problem and the climax or final solution. **BE SURE TO USE A PENCIL IN THIS SECTION SO YOU CAN REVISE YOUR IDEAS.**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

D. In this section of the packet, you will record some of the ideas that will make your piece “yours”. In other words, these unique ideas will make your piece different from the pieces of others.

PERSONIFICATION AND SIMILE

Write a list of 10 creative phrases that you would like to use in your story. Include at least one simile and one example of personification. Use new ideas – not ones that you have already used in your work on the main character or the setting.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Make a list of 20 words that you might use in place of “said”.

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1 | 11 |
| 2 | 12 |
| 3 | 13 |
| 4 | 14 |
| 5 | 15 |
| 6 | 16 |
| 7 | 17 |
| 8 | 18 |
| 9 | 19 |
| 10 | 20 |