

Class: Language Arts – Creative Writing

Class Length: 24 Weeks

Schedule: 1-day/week lesson plan

Resources needed:

- Corresponding lessons on SchoolhouseTeachers.com
- Access to the library, Internet, computer, printer, Bible
- Journal for notetaking and research

Instructions: This suggested lesson plan is broken down into separate weeks and days. On the line beside each day, write the specific day of the month you would like your student to complete each assignment. (Consider writing dates in pencil). As your student completes each assignment, he/she can mark the check box beside it. When the entire lesson has been completed, come back to this page and mark the check box beside that lesson. Once the entire course has been completed, consider printing out a Certificate of Completion as well.

Use the note boxes on each page to provide further instructions, leave a message for your student, remind yourself about the details of a particular lesson, and so on.

Weeks Completed

(Check the following boxes as you have completed each week.)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 1: Unit 1: Why Write Fiction? | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 14: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 2: Unit 1: Why Write Fiction? | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 15: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 3: Unit 1: Why Write Fiction? | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 16: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 4: Unit 2: Character Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 17: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 5: Unit 2: Character Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 18: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 6: Unit 2: Character Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 19: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 7: Unit 2: Character Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 20: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 8: Unit 3: Scene Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 21: Unit 6: Getting Published |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 9: Unit 3: Scene Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 22: Unit 6: Getting Published |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 10: Unit 3: Scene Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 23: Unit 6: Getting Published |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 11: Unit 3: Scene Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Week 24: Unit 6: Getting Published |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 12: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Week 13: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue | |

Week 1: Unit 1: Why Write Fiction?

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit One: Why Write Fiction and read pp. 1-2.
- What is the difference between fiction and non-fiction? Answer this and the questions at the end of the lesson in your notebook.
- After answering the questions, do some research on your favorite fiction author. Write a one-page essay on what you learned about him or her.
- Go to the library and find a new fiction book to start reading this week.

Week 2: Unit 1: Why Write Fiction?

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit One: Why Write Fiction and read page 3.
- Choose at least three fiction books for this week's assignment. Answer the questions in the lesson about each one in your notebook. (Book suggestions are listed in the lesson.)
- Continue reading the fiction book from last week, or choose another.

Week 3: Unit 1: Why Write Fiction?

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit One: Why Write Fiction and read page 4.
- After reading the instructions, begin writing your story. Make sure to write enough! (See #1 in the instructions.)
- Continue reading a fiction book you enjoy.

Week 4: Unit 2: Character Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Two: Character Development and read page 1.
- What did you learn about character development? What are four important elements of a character in fiction?
- Answer the questions in the lesson about yourself. Write details to substantiate your answers.
- Continue to read a fiction book of your choice.

Week 5: Unit 2: Character Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Two: Character Development and read page 2.
- Choose a book you've read and answer the questions in the lesson. Give as much detail as you remember.
- As you observe others this week, make mental notes about how they go about daily life.
- Continue to read a book of your choice.

Week 6: Unit 2: Character Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Two: Character Development and read page 3.
- Follow the instructions in the lesson, and write more details about the characters in your story. Remember to give the reader something to "see," and be consistent.
- Continue reading the book you chose.

Week 7: Unit 2: Character Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Two: Character Development and read pp. 4-5.
- What are the four common problems in character development?
- Print the story you have written. Read it out loud. Make notes as you read.
- Look for some of the Recommended Resources at the end of the lesson.
- Continue to read your book this week.

Week 8: Unit 3: Scene Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Three: Scene Development and read pp. 1-2.
- What is the definition of a scene?
- Write answers to the six questions in the lesson. The more you write, the easier future lessons will be.
- Continue to read a book of your choice.

Week 9: Unit 3: Scene Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Three: Scene Development and read page 3.
- Read each paragraph and answer the questions that follow.
- Continue to read a book of your choice.

Week 10: Unit 3: Scene Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Three: Scene Development and read page 4.
- Consider the three things that readers want to know in the first few paragraphs of a story. Work on your story and incorporate these ideas along with actions and body language to convey emotions in your characters.
- Continue reading the book you chose.

Week 11: Unit 3: Scene Development

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Three: Scene Development and read page 5.
- Read your story out loud, keeping in mind the common problems discussed in the lesson. Rewrite any problem areas.
- Check out some of the Recommended Resources.
- Continue to read your book.

Week 12: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Four: Writing Dialogue and read page 1.
- Pay attention to conversations this week. Make notes and answer the questions in your lesson about what you observe.
- Continue to read your chosen book.

Week 13: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Four: Writing Dialogue and read pp. 2-3.
- What are some reasons for updating grammar rules? Write what you learned in your notebook.
- Make a list in your notebook of words you find tricky, such as *affect* and *effect*. Write their definitions and add to the list as you encounter words you aren't sure about.
- Review punctuation rules from your English class.
- Continue to read your book.

Week 14: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Four: Writing Dialogue and read pp. 4-6.
- Read each excerpt and rewrite to improve it.
- What did you learn about writing how people think they sound?
- Why is it acceptable to use fragments when writing dialogue?
- Continue to read a fiction book.

Week 15: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Four: Writing Dialogue and read page 7.
- Read your story and add dialogue. Keep the four points in mind from the lesson.
- Continue to read your fiction book.

Week 16: Unit 4: Writing Dialogue

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Four: Writing Dialogue and read page 8.
- Read your story out loud. Does the story move through the character's dialogue? Did you break up dialogue with action? Make any changes you see necessary.
- Continue to read your fiction book.

Week 17: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Five: Fiction Guidelines and read page 1.
- Are there rules to writing fiction? What is one of the most important things that can contribute to good writing? Challenge yourself to read four or more books this year.
- Continue to read your fiction book.

Week 18: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Five: Fiction Guidelines and read page 2.
- What are the seven subsections of fiction writing? Take notes in your notebook as you read.
- Take some time this week to read the links posted at the end of your lesson. What did you learn about writing from each?
- Continue to read your book.

Week 19: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Five: Fiction Guidelines and read page 3.
- Complete each of the four points listed in the lesson. Document what you discover about your writing in your notebook. Make changes to your story.
- Continue reading your book or choose a new one.

Week 20: Unit 5: Fiction Guidelines

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Five: Fiction Guidelines and read pp. 4-5.
- Read your story out loud, considering the points in the lesson this week. Make changes to your story as you read.
- Continue reading your book or choose a new one.

Week 21: Unit 6: Getting Published

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Six: Getting Published and read pp. 1-3.
- What are some things to consider before going to a publisher? What are the four types of publishers to consider? What would be difficult about writing for a Christian publisher vs. a secular publisher?
- Continue reading your book or choose a new one.

Week 22: Unit 6: Getting Published

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Six: Getting Published and read page 4.
- What are some ways to research publishers? Go to the library and ask for help researching the suggested market guides. Use the link in the lesson to find more Christian publishers.
- Continue reading your book or choose a new one.

Week 23: Unit 6: Getting Published

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Six: Getting Published and read pp. 5-7.
- What two things do veteran authors struggle to write? What is the difference between a query letter and a proposal? Read the guidelines for writing a great letter. Try writing one of your own about the story you have been writing for this course.
- Follow the directions at the end of the lesson and write two descriptions for the story you have written.
- Continue reading your book or choose a new one.

Week 24: Unit 6: Getting Published

NOTES:

Day 1 | Date: _____

- Download Unit Six: Getting Published and read pp. 8-9.
- What did you learn about marketing a book?
- Look up the website or social media presence of two of your favorite authors. What did you learn? Did the information affect your opinion of them? What things might you need to consider before posting information about yourself on the Internet? (PARENT'S PERMISSION REQUIRED.)
- Continue reading your book or choose a new one.