

You are going to be authors and illustrators!

You will be working with at least 2 other people to research, plan, write, and illustrate a book!

Fiction authors write about events that are not real. Sometimes, the people or events of the story are based on real life though. Fiction writers use their knowledge and experiences to come up with storylines and characters. Sometimes, they just use their imaginations to create fantasy stories!

You will be doing this with your group. Complete the tasks in order to write a fiction book!

Getting Ready

Learning Contract

Task 1: Working in a Group

Task 2: Picking an Idea

Task 3: External/Internal Problems

Task 4: Character Development

Learning Contract

Write your initials on the line. You will need to agree to all of the following in order to work on your project.

_____ I will work hard every day.

_____ I will try my best.

_____ I will leave my project to work on full class activities or lessons when the teacher tells me – without arguing.

_____ I will not bother anyone, including the teacher.

_____ If I get stuck, I will look at my planning list for ideas of what to do.

_____ I will do everything I can to help myself and others learn.

_____ I will stay on task and manage my time.

_____ I understand that I may keep working on my project if I follow all of the rules.

Student's Signature _____

Teacher's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date: _____

Task 1: Working in a Group

Working in a group can be hard. Sometimes you want to do things your way, but you will need to work together to complete all of the tasks.

Often, by working in a group, you learn new things and create an even better book because you are joining all of your ideas together!

Before you start writing your book, you will need to agree on how your group will work together. Complete the tables below. Some examples have been done for you.

Working Together

SOUNDS Like	LOOKS Like
What does it sound like when someone hears you working together nicely?	What does it look like when someone sees you all working together nicely?
Everyone takes turns talking.	Everyone may be working on different parts at the same time.

You will also need to work together when problems come up. Before you begin, it's good to have a few ways of problem solving in place. Work together to fill out the chart below.

Potential Problems:

Potential Solutions:

<u>My group can't agree on a topic/character idea.</u>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<u>I am stuck. I don't know what to do next.</u>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Fill out the rest of this box with potential problems and solutions.

Task 2: Picking an Idea

You will be writing a fictional story. Remember, often fiction authors use events from real life as inspiration for their stories. Below, brainstorm different ideas that you have for characters, problems, and solutions.

Brainstorm - When you brainstorm, remember there are no bad ideas! Keep the ideas coming! If you run out of room, use another sheet of paper. Fill out *at least* five boxes in each category before moving onto the next step.

Character (Don't write names here. Write descriptions of possible characters.)	Problem (What internal or external problems may a character or characters face?)	Solution (How will the problem be solved? What lessons might the character learn? How might the character grow?)

Take a few minutes to think about your ideas...

Look at your list above. Below, you will come up with 3 different ideas for your book. Write a ONE-SENTENCE summary of your book. (For example: An adult who was bullied as a child travels back in time to 4th grade to confront his bully.)

BrainStorm:

Each sentence should be 15 words or less. Make sure you tie together the big picture and the personal picture of the main character.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

***Put a star next to your favorite storyline.**

Talk together as a group to decide on ONE summary. It's okay if you mix and match characters and storylines based on each other's brainstorm, but you must all agree on one summary.

Write the one-sentence summary that you ALL agree on below. Everyone should write this sentence down in their packets.

The summary of our book is:

=====

=====

Task 3: External/Internal Problems

You and your group will take some time to expand that sentence into a full paragraph. In fiction stories, there are always problems. Often, we see one of the main characters trying to remedy those problems, only to fail or cause other problems. Every book has an ending, however. Usually, the character grows in some way or a lesson is learned. In this task, you will turn the sentence you wrote in task 2 into a paragraph. You will use this as a guide for when you write your book.

Brainstorm some ideas below.

As a group, write your paragraph together. Your paragraph should have about five sentences. The first sentence should provide a backdrop and story setup. For each problem (whether external or internal) should have a sentence. (You should not have more than 3 problems.) The last sentence should be the ending of your story.

Task 4: Character Development

Readers are often drawn to fictional stories because of the characters. Authors intentionally make rich characters who struggle with decisions and often undergo some type of growth throughout a story. Before you write the first draft of your story, you will need to brainstorm together to complete the character description below. In your book, you may want to have 1-2 main characters.

Character's name:

One-Sentence summary of character's storyline:

.....

Character's goal (What does the character ultimately want?)

.....

Character's motivation (Why is the character doing this?)

.....

Lesson learned (What will the character learn? How will he/she change/grow?)

.....

Summary of character's plot (one paragraph):

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(If you have more than 1 main character, fill out the next page.)

Character's name:

One-Sentence summary of character's storyline:

.....
.....

Character's goal (What does the character ultimately want?)

.....
.....

Character's motivation (Why is the character doing this?)

.....
.....

Lesson learned (What will the character learn? How will he/she
change/grow?)

.....
.....

Summary of character's plot (one paragraph):

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Putting It Together

Task 5: First Draft of the Story

Task 6: Editing

Task 7: Illustrating

Task 8: Dedication Page

Task 5: First Draft of the Story

By this time, you should have a good idea of the big picture of your story. You have problems and solutions. You have a plan for how your characters will develop over the course of the story.

It's okay if you go back and revise your one-sentence plot or tweak your summary. This is a process that ALL authors go through. You will need to work together to decide how to use the previous steps to make a draft of your story.

A helpful format to follow is to split your story into thirds:

First third: Introduction to all major themes/characters

Middle third: Develop themes and characters

Final third: Resolve themes/mysteries

Write your plan of attack for the first draft of your book. Write who is doing what for the first draft. It's okay if it changes. Everyone should share the responsibilities evenly.

Initial Plan:

Author	Responsible for:

Your story should be between 12-18 pages long.

Good authors go back over their work to make sure they spelled everything correctly and that the order of the story makes sense.

You will create a rough draft. You will use this when you type out your final draft. It may be helpful to use a Google Doc as you write. This will allow everyone access to the same document.

Task 6: Editing the Story

Now that you have completed your first draft, it's time to edit the story. Authors go back and edit their stories time after time. They also work with people called editors to help create the best books they can!

Everyone should read the story again. In addition to looking for the elements below, make sure you check spelling and grammar.

After everyone has filled out the rubric, you will edit the story. Create a final draft. Your story should be split onto different pages. Make sure your final draft has this. You should have between 12-18 pages of text. Some of these pages should have illustrations.

If you have not yet done so, create a title for your story.

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Creativity	The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story.	There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Setting	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell when and where the story took place.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story took place.	The reader can figure out when and where the story took place, but the author didn't supply much detail.	The reader has trouble figuring out when and where the story took place.
Action	Several action verbs (active voice) are used to describe what is happening in the story. The story seems exciting!	Several action verbs are used to describe what is happening in the story, but the word choice doesn't make the story as exciting as it could be.	A variety of verbs (passive voice) are used and describe the action accurately but not in a very exciting way.	Little variety seen in the verbs that are used. The story seems a little boring.
Problem/Conflict	It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face but it is not clear why it is a problem.	It is not clear what problem the main characters face.
Characters	The main characters are named and clearly described in text as well as pictures. Most readers could describe the characters accurately.	The main characters are named and described. Most readers would have some idea of what the characters looked like.	The main characters are named. The reader knows very little about the characters.	It is hard to tell who the main characters are.

Strengths:

- _____
- _____

Areas for improvement:

- _____
- _____

Task 7: Illustrations

Now that you have your story in place, it's time to illustrate the story!

Illustrators usually pick one way of illustrating the book. For example, all of the pages will be done by painting pictures or all of the pages will be done by drawing pictures.

Illustrators do everything the same in a book to maintain a constant look. As a group, you will need to decide on one of the following formats for your artwork:

- Crayons
- Markers
- Computers graphics
- Cut paper

Everyone must do the same style of artwork. You should have between 10-13 pages of artwork. You will also need to create a cover page.

Your book should be between 21-29 pages in length. Some pages of your book will have both text and illustrations on them. Develop a plan with your group. It may be helpful to create a sketch of your book before creating illustrations.

Task 8: Dedication Page

Writing and illustrating is hard work! Many authors write a dedication page after they have finished putting together their books. A dedication page is a place where authors thank all of the people who have helped them write or illustrate the book.

As a group, fill out the dedication page below.

Dedication Page

(Title of Book)

This book is dedicated to _____

_____.

(List all of the people that your group would like to thank for helping you write/illustrate this book.)

Thank you for _____

_____.

(Describe how the people above helped you!)

Copyright _____
(Year the book was written)

Illustrated and Written by: _____

_____.

(Authors/Illustrators)

(School)

(City, State)