

Mars Habitation

Short Story



This lesson will review types of stories the students can write and how to go about starting the writing process for their short stories.

Overview:

In this lesson plan students will:

- Explore what types of story they can write for their project.
- Brainstorm and write small drafts in different formats for their story.

Process/Skills:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication
- Productivity and Accountability

Time:

90 minute lesson time

Materials:

- Google Voice Handout
- Storyboard Template
- Postcard Template
- ABC Template

Introduction

1. Say to Students: “Over the past 10 lessons you have learned about your Mission and some of the science necessary to create your community. Over the next few weeks you will be drawing from your 3-2-1 Learning Models, your journals, and your imaginations to create a children’s book that reflects both your learning and your dreams. For this project you can write either an original story about your adventures on Mars, a diary or letters from Mars, or an ABC book about Mars. These are just suggestions, feel free to be creative.”
2. Suggest to the students that it is sometimes it is helpful to make a draft of their document first. To help this process go faster, you can Google Voice Typing. You can use this software to dictate your story and then print it out to edit and polish later. Use the Google Voice Handout.
 - a. If you use Google to help you write, just print out the pages and cut and paste the words into your book and then illustrate.
3. Or you can simply write your story in your own handwriting in the book and then illustrate.
4. Review over the three examples of a story with the students. Have them pick one, two, or all three and make a small sample of their story. Remember this is just an exercise to get them to think about how they want to write their book.

If you think you want to write an original story...

1. There are a few important things to remember when writing a story.. You need to include a setting, strong characters, and a good plot.
2. Each day as you add to your story think about each of these things:
 - a. Setting: Does the reader know where you are? What time is it? What season is it? What does the landscape look like? Or what does the building or room you are in look like? Setting helps to set a mood. For example if all the furniture and the walls of a room are white you would feel differently than if everything was gray.

- b. Characters: Your reader needs to be able to feel what the character feels and hear what they are thinking. Feeling can be shown by expressions and body language. A character looking at his shoes feels differently than a character who is looking eye to eye with someone. What is your character thinking?
Sometimes you can tell the reader this through dialogue with another character.
- c. Plot: There are 5 basic parts to developing a story. One easy way to think of this is Someone, Wanted, But, So, Then. If you know these things then you can write around them. For example,
 - i. Someone --- big bad wolf
 - ii. Wanted – to eat the pigs
 - iii. But
 - 1) a pig build a house of straw, the wolf huffs and puffs, and eats him up
 - 2) a pig builds a house of sticks, the wolf huffs and puffs, and eats him up
 - 3) a pig builds a house of bricks, the wolf huffs and puffs and can't blow down the house
 - iv. So – he climbs through the chimney
 - v. Then – he drops into a pot of boiling water and the pig has wolf soup!
- 3. If you outline your story first then each day you can add details from your Mars lessons to make your story detailed and exciting! Try to incorporate the ideas from your lessons to add detail.
- 4. Now use the storyboard template to help you get started.

If you think you want to write letters from Mars...

- 1. Pretend you are writing to friends. What would you want them to know? Is it fun? Do you miss them? What is your life like on Mars? Look back at your 3-2-1 learning to add details to your letters.
- 2. You can use the postcard template for your writing and then cut and paste them into your book or simply write you letter directly on the page.
- 3. Now use the postcard template to help you get started.

If you think you would like to write an alphabet book...

1. If you are writing an alphabet book make sure you have no more than one item for each letter. For example C is for cat, NOT C is for cat and culture and cute.
2. Make sure that you give an explanation of your letter.
 - a. Instead of C is for Cat write C is for Cat – My cat back on Earth that is missing me or C is for Cat – I have my cat’s picture right next to my bed here on Mars...
3. Before you begin writing in your book it may help to make a list of the alphabet and the words you plan to use so that you can be sure you don’t miss or repeat any letters. Have fun!
4. Now use the ABC template to help you get started.

Using Google Voice Typing

This is a FREE service, however, to use this you need to create a gmail account. If you already have a gmail account, skip this step. [Create a Google account](#)

(<https://www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Gmail-Account>)

If you already have a gmail account, sign in and click on the google apps icon. Choose Docs and follow these instructions.

[Google Voice Typing](#)

(<https://www.pcworld.com/article/3038200/data-center-cloud/how-to-use-voice-dictation-in-google-docs.html>)

You can also use your Android or IOS device to create your document. Choose whichever device you have and follow the instructions for adding Google Voice Typing. Note that if you are using a computer you will need a mic.

[Google Voice Typing for Android](#)

(<https://www.wikihow.tech/Activate-Google-Voice-Typing-on-Android>)

[Google Voice Typing for iPhone or iPad](#)

(<https://www.wikihow.tech/Activate-Google-Voice-Typing-on-iPhone-or-iPad>)

Student Handout - Storyboard Template

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Student Handout - Post Card Template

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Student Handout - ABC Book Template

Aa

Bb

Cc

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