



Standards and Benchmarks: 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, 2A

Science Fiction Stories

Objective: The students will be able to write a science fiction story that contains a title, as many sentences as you require*, and a conclusion.

*On the peer and teacher assessment sheets, the number of sentences required will be left blank so that you may determine the criteria which meet the needs of your students.

Materials

- science fiction story (See the bibliography on pages 142 and 143.)
- copies of “Science Fiction Outline,” “Science Fiction Peer Assessment,” and “Science Fiction Teacher Assessment” (pages 68–70) for each student
- colored pencils or crayons

Prewriting

1. Read a science fiction story to your class. Ask students what a science fiction story is. What are the things that make it a science fiction story? Science fiction is a story based on science where life as we know it has been dramatically changed. Sometimes it is the characters that have been altered (aliens, dinosaurs, etc.), or the setting (outer space, earth with different surroundings, the moon, etc.).
2. Brainstorm with your class a list of things that if scientifically changed would alter the way we live our lives. (What if our clocks stopped working? or everyone’s skin turned green? or the sun stayed up night and day? etc.) Make a list of these changes on the chalkboard. Have each student select one change to write a science fiction story about.

Drafting

1. Distribute copies of “Science Fiction Outline” (page 68) to students. Have students answer the questions to prepare for writing their science fiction stories.
2. When students have finished the worksheet, have them write the drafts of their science fiction stories. Go over the criteria for the science fiction story (see objective above). Clarify with students the expectations for these stories.

Editing and Revising

1. When the stories are drafted, pair students up with a partner, and have students read each others’ stories. Provide “Science Fiction Peer Assessment” for this purpose. Partners should check to make sure that all the criteria for the science fiction story have been met.
2. Following the peer editing, students should make any necessary changes and revisions before writing the final copies of the stories.

Publishing and Assessment

1. Students should type their drafts, using a word-processing program on the computer. Students could illustrate their final copies with a picture of a character or the scenery.
2. Use “Science Fiction Teacher Assessment” (page 70) to evaluate the final copies of the science fiction stories.

Science Fiction Outline

Answer these questions to help organize your story.

1. Who was involved in the story? (Describe the characters. What do they look like? What can they do?) _____

2. Where did it take place? _____

3. What does it look like? Is it hot or cold? _____

4. What happened to the world? _____

5. What has been changed about the world? _____

6. What happened in the story? _____

7. How did it end? _____

8. What is the title of the story? _____

Science Fiction

Peer Assessment

Author's Name: _____

Title of Story: _____

Editor's Name: _____

Editor

Did the author write a science fiction story that . . .

- changed something about the world?
- had a title?
- had at least _____ sentences?
- had a conclusion?

Author

Before you write your final copy, did you remember to . . .

- make any changes that your editor suggested?
- check for correct spelling?
- check for correct punctuation?
- check for correct capitalization?

Complete the following sentences.

1. My favorite part of my story is when _____

2. I need help on _____

Science Fiction

Teacher Assessment

Author's Name: _____

Title of Story: _____

Did the author write a science fiction story that . . .

- changed something about the world?
- had a title?
- had at least _____ sentences?
- had a conclusion?

Did the student . . .

- write or type the story neatly?
- use correct spelling?
- use correct punctuation?
- use correct capitalization?

Feedback from the teacher:

1. Your story is strong in these ways: _____

2. You could make your story better by doing the following: _____

