

THE TURKEY ON THE TRAIL

Developed by:

Laura Wright – 2016 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™

Discipline / Subject:

Language Arts

Topic:

Narrative writing

Grade Level:

2nd grade – middle school

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

1. Turkey image- PDF
2. Art supplies, markers, faux fur pieces, construction paper, etc.
3. Turkey on the Trail information sheet

Lesson Summary:

Students will disguise a paper turkey as a husky training for the Iditarod race. They will write a 1st person narrative pretending to be the turkey. They will describe how they will escape the farm and not become Thanksgiving dinner because of their husky dog disguise.

Standards Addressed:**Common Core State Standards - CCSS – 4th grade – 6th grade:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.A

Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.B

Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.C

Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.D

Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to convey experiences and events.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3.E

Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

Texas State Standards – TEKS – 4th grade – 6th grade:

(b) 2. (17) Writing. Students write about their own experiences. Students are expected to write about important personal experiences.

(b) (15) Writing/Literary Texts. Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. Students are expected to:

(A) Write imaginative stories that include:

(i) A clearly defined focus, plot, and point of view;

(ii) A specific, believable setting created through the use of sensory details; and

(iii) Dialogue that develops the story

Alaska State Standards – 4th grade:

3. Use narrative writing to develop real or imagined characters, experiences, or events using effective narrative techniques (dialogue, description, elaboration, problem-solution, figurative language) and clear event sequences (chronology).

a. Orient the reader by establishing a context or situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, description and elaboration, and concrete and sensory details to describe actions, thoughts, and motivations and to develop experiences and events showing the responses of characters to situations, problems, or conflicts.

c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to develop the sequence of events.

d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details, and elaboration to convey experiences and events precisely.

e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

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| <p>Learning Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Students will write a 1st person narrative pretending to be a turkey that disguises itself as an Iditarod husky to escape being Thanksgiving dinner.2. Students will use writing techniques such as dialogue, elaboration, figurative language, and transitional words to narrate the turkey's escape from the farm. | <p>Assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Turkey on the Trail in Disguise information sheet2. Narrative – 1st person and one to two pages describing the plan of escape3. Writing rubric will be created by the teacher: http://www.quickrubric.com |
| <p>Procedural Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. If you are an Iditarod Insider Subscriber, show your students videos of mushers in training and discuss what a husky dog needs to do and learn to be part of an Iditarod team.2. Explain to students that they will be disguising a paper turkey as an Iditarod husky in training for the Iditarod. Brainstorm what husky dogs in training need: dog booties, harnesses, etc.3. Hand out the paper turkey graphics to students, and let them decorate their turkeys with fabric, faux fur, and art supplies.4. Give students the information sheet with the expectations and directions for the project. This activity can be created at home or at school.5. On the due date, bring in the disguised turkeys and create an Iditarod Trail bulletin board for display. | |
| <p>Materials Students Need:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Turkey image- PDF2. Art supplies, markers, faux fur pieces, construction paper, etc.3. Turkey on the Trail information sheet4. Turkey writing can be handwritten or typed | |

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Teachers with Insider Subscriptions can view musher videos showcasing the training of the dog teams in November.

Optional: The Chatterpix Kids app records the students reading their narratives while the turkey's mouth moves. They can be shared digitally with parents or embedded on a teacher website.

<http://iditarod.com/insider/>

<http://www.duckduckmoose.com/educational-iphone-itouch-apps-for-kids/chatterpixkids/>

Other Information:

Other forms and genres of writing can be used for this writing piece instead of a narrative. Students can write a persuasive piece or even a poem to explain their disguise and plan of escape for their turkey.

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:**Modified:**

Create a piece of writing as a group together

Enrichment:

Have students research husky dogs from either the Iditarod Insider videos or from internet sources. Write their narrative piece using information and facts about husky dogs, such as adding dog booties to the turkey, mushing terms such as "gee" and "haw", and adding factual information about training a real husky dog for the Iditarod to make the writing more informative and factual.