

Extra! Extra!

GUIDELINES

Objective: Students write two newspaper articles based on a science fiction or fantasy book. In one article, students report an event that occurred in the book. In the other article, students report an event they made up based on the characters and story.

Read aloud short news articles to give students an idea of their purpose and style. Write the following questions on the board, and explain that an article should answer all of them.

- ⊗ Who?
- ⊗ What?
- ⊗ When?
- ⊗ Where?
- ⊗ Why?

Challenge students to underline the parts of the articles that answer these questions. Point out that they can usually find the answers at the beginning of an article. Ask students what additional information or details the reporter included. Look for direct quotations. Discuss the writing style of news articles, and have students notice that the sentences are usually succinct and to the point.

Explain that students will choose an exciting event from their book and write a newspaper article about it. Students will answer the five questions in their articles and then provide additional details, such as quotations, observations, and other details. Look at examples of headlines and then have children write a headline for their article.

Next, explain that students will make up an event that might have happened involving the characters in the book. The event could happen at any point in the story. Students will follow the same directions to write this article, again answering the five questions.

After students have written rough drafts of both articles, they write a final draft that looks like the front page of a newspaper. Have students draw an illustration for one of the articles and add a clever title that relates to the book.

Set up a newsstand in your classroom with the newspapers that students created. Encourage visitors and class members to read the newspapers on display. You might have students choose an article to read to the class.

Science Fiction/Fantasy

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For this project, you'll create the front page of a newspaper with two articles based on your science fiction or fantasy book. You'll report one event that happened in the story and one event that you've made up.

MATERIALS

lined paper, a large sheet of unlined white paper, crayons or markers

DIRECTIONS

DUE DATES

Book approved

Book finished

Project finished

- 1 Find a science fiction or fantasy book that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

- 2 Think about the interesting events in the story. Choose one on which to base your article. To get started, answer the following questions about the event.

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

- 3 On a separate sheet of paper, write a rough draft of your article. Give your article a headline.

4 Think of an exciting event that could have happened in the book but did not. Your event could take place at any point in the story and should include actual characters and places from the book. Answer the following questions about your made-up event.

Who? _____

What? _____

When? _____

Where? _____

Why? _____

5 On a separate sheet of paper, write a rough draft of your article. Give your article a headline.

6 Read your articles and revise to make your writing stronger and more interesting.

7 Design a front page of a newspaper. Sketch it on scrap paper. Think of a title for your newspaper that relates to your book. Then, neatly copy each article onto the page. Draw a picture to illustrate one of the articles and write a caption beneath it (a sentence that describes the picture).

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Quarter: _____

Extra, Extra!

Book Title: _____

	Student Check	Possible Points	Points Earned
Was your book approved by the due date?		5	
Did you hand in this rubric with your project?		5	
Did you hand in your project on time?		10	
Did you write two articles (AND LABEL THEM), one about an event in the book and one about an event you made up?		10	
Did you answer the five questions in each article?		20	
Was your writing thoughtful and interesting?		15	
Did your writing make sense?		15	
Did you write a headline for each article?		5	
Did you draw a picture and write a caption for it?		5	
Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?		10	
Total Points		100	

Comments: