

Write a Picture Book

GUIDELINES

Objective: Students write and illustrate a picture book based on a fictional book.

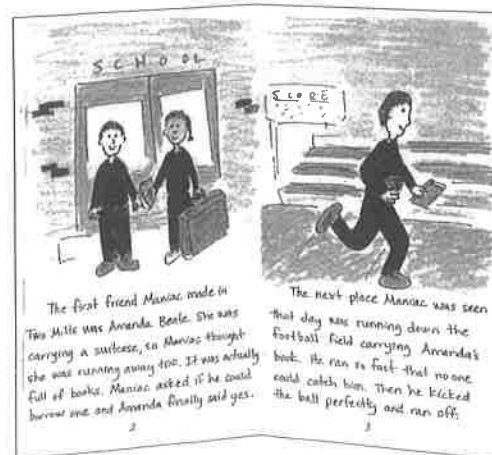
Display picture books in your classroom and encourage students to read them when they have finished a task or during a designated time. Draw students' attention to the writing style, simple language, dialogue, and illustrations that support the text. Ask them what they like about children's books and which are their favorites.

To prepare for this project, students first describe the beginning, middle, and ending of their book. This will help them identify the most important aspects to include in their children's book. After they have written summaries of each part, they write a rough draft of the children's book. Explain to students that they should refer to the summaries to help them retell the story, but that their stories should not merely summarize the events. Recall the children's books on display and the aspects that made the stories interesting. If students are having a difficult time with this assignment, have them retell just one chapter or episode from their book instead.

After students have written a rough draft, encourage them to revise. Then they can decide how they will arrange their book. They should plan to include about a paragraph of text on each 8½- by 5½-inch sheet of paper. Students may need to shorten their books if the text is running too long. Instruct them to write the text at the bottom of the page so that they can draw an illustration above.

Next, on each page, students draw and color an illustration that supports the text. Explain that this will help young readers understand the story. Have students add a cover with a title and illustration, arrange the pages in order, and staple along the left side.

Add these books to your children's book display. If possible, invite a first- or second-grade class to visit. Have students pair up with the younger children and read the books together.



Fiction

Write a Picture Book

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a picture book author or illustrator? This activity will give you a chance to find out. Imagine that you are going to rewrite the book you just read for a first- or second-grade child. What are the most important events of the book? How could you describe them in a simple way?

DUE DATES
Book approved _____
Book finished _____
Project finished _____

MATERIALS

8½- by 11-inch white construction paper (cut or folded in half to form 8½- by 5½-inch sheets), markers or crayons, stapler

DIRECTIONS

- 1) Find a fictional book that interests you and is at an appropriate reading level for you. Have your book approved by your teacher.

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

- 2) Write a brief summary of the beginning, middle, and ending of the book:

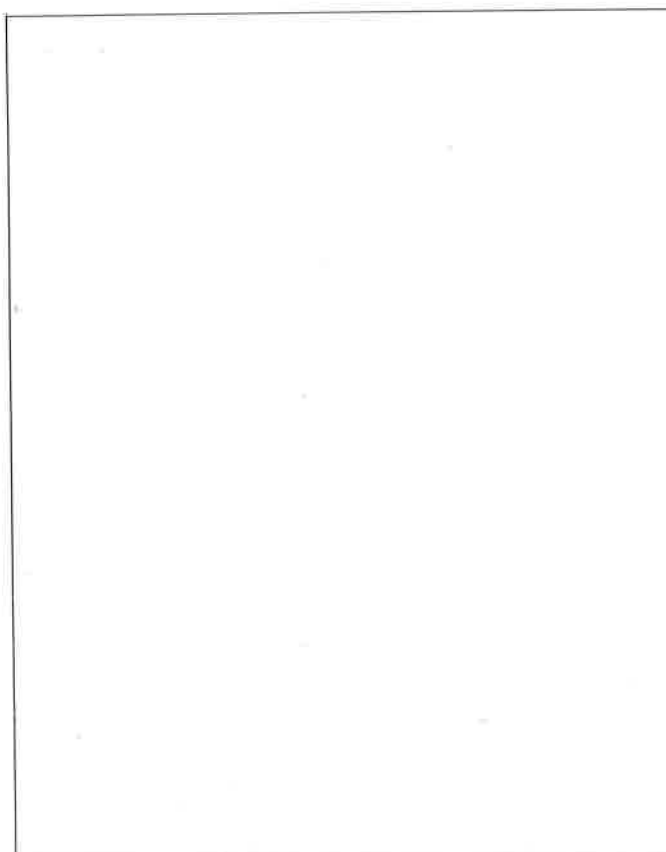
Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ending: _____

- 3 Read your summaries and think about how you can rewrite the information as a story for children. Write a rough draft of the story, using language that a first- or second-grade student could understand. (If you are having a difficult time simplifying the story, you might retell your favorite chapter or episode instead of the whole book.) Plan to include about a paragraph of text on each page. Include dialogue and some details to make the story interesting. Decide how you will illustrate each page. Revise your story to make your writing stronger.
- 4 Transfer the story onto white paper. Draw and color a picture on each page.
- 5 Add a cover and write the title of the book, your name, and the original author's name—for example: "Black Beauty," retold by (your name), original story by Anna Sewell. Draw and color a picture on the cover. Sketch the cover below before creating your final copy. Arrange the pages in order with the cover on top and staple along the left side.



Name: _____ Grade: _____ Quarter: _____

Write a Picture Book

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 a paragraph summary for each part?		10	
Did you write a rough draft of your story? (Can be a shared google doc)		10	
Did you revise?		10	
Did you complete your children's book?		20	
Is your project thoughtful and well written?		10	
Is your project neat, colorful, and attractive?		10	
Are the spelling, punctuation, and grammar correct?		10	
Total Points		100	

Comments: