

**7G: Intermediate Story Writing**

In this unit, students get to practice their creative writing skills, learning the elements of storytelling and character development, and the importance of vivid language. Students gain a sense of ownership over their writing as they experiment with the impact of their authorial choices on sentences, language, character traits, and plot twist. As students consider how to use these elements to create a story, they also gain tools to help them effectively and incisively analyze a piece of literature.

Students begin with creating a character, observing and recording details, and writing about their character in mundane situations to make them multifaceted and believable. As students explore the situation, they pay particular attention to their character's point of view and the perspective this conveys about the setting and action. After some explicit instruction about the structure of a story, particularly the idea of character change and growth, students pull all their skills together to write a story and practice the most important part of creative writing—revision.

**What my student will do/learn:**

- Students work to create a believable character for their short story, selecting an appropriate problem and developing their character's response.
- Students apply their understanding of the shape of a story to develop their own story, experimenting with point of view, sensory details, and perspective.
- Students consider and incorporate multifaceted personalities and characters' change and growth in a story.
- Students write dialogue consistent with each character's personality.
- Students revise, paying particular attention to sentence structure and sensory details.
- Students edit their paper, paying particular attention to conventions and transitions, and create a final copy.

**Here are some conversation starters that you can use during this unit to promote discussion and encourage continued learning with your student.**

1. What problem does your character face? How does this problem help reveal your character's personality?
2. What point of view do you use in your short story? Why did you choose it?
3. How does your character change and grow?
4. Read me the most important or exciting scene in your story. If you were filming this, who would you cast as the main character and why? Where would you shoot the film and why? (Provide feedback to your student by identifying something in their story that you can respond to as a reader. For example, "I was nervous when your character yelled at the bigger kids, because I thought he might get into a fight.")
5. What worked well for you in this writing process? What might you do differently the next time you craft a short story?