Introduction: Preparing for Aligned or Complementary Units on Narrative Reading and Writing

Includes some quick background on reading and writing workshops, resources to help support a teacher new to that work, and discussion of ways the work can go depending on the type of narrative written and read.

LESSONS FOR GENERATING STORY: ENVISIONING CHARACTERS AND SETTINGS

For Fictional Narratives

LESSON 1
Writing: Write Our Truest Selves 24
Reading: Characters Offer Clues to Authors’ Selves 26

LESSON 2
Writing: Flaws and Quirks for Character Development 30
Reading: Studying Flaws to Seek Deeper Meaning 33

LESSON 3
Writing: Finding Freedom in Familiar Character Types 36
Reading: Identifying Archetypes to Develop Depth of Understanding 39

LESSON 4
Writing: Maps, Photographs, and Songs as Tools for Setting Creation 43
Reading: Connecting Setting to Meaning 46
LESSON 5

Writing: Letting Characters and Settings Lead Us to Story 50
Reading: Following the Path of a Story to Understand Other Elements 55

For Personal Narrative or Memoir

LESSON 6

Writing: Finding Important Ideas in the Most Personal Piece of Our Lives 57
Reading: Focusing on the Details of a Text to Uncover Bigger Notions 62

LESSON 7

Writing: Studying Places for Stories to Explore 65
Reading: Making the Connection Between Place and an Author’s Message 68

For All Narrative Genres

LESSON 8

Writing: Revising the Arc to Match the Meaning 71
Reading: Connecting the Shape of the Plot to the Theme 74

FOR DIGITAL CLASSROOMS

Writing: Apps and Tools to Help Keep Track of Story Ideas 76
Reading: Reading Stories Digitally Requires Readers to Purposefully Set Themselves up to Reread 79

LESSONS FOR DRAFTING A NARRATIVE, FOLLOWING PLOT, AND FINDING SIGNIFICANCE 83

For All Narrative Genres

LESSON 9

Writing: Draft Fast to Create Energy 86
Reading: Reading Voluminously to Build Momentum 89

LESSON 10

Writing: Drafting Stand-Alone Scenes 92
Reading: Studying One Scene for Larger Understanding 95
PART 3

LESSON 11
Writing: Deciding When to Summarize 98
Reading: Summarizing Text to Check for Comprehension 101
For Personal Narrative or Memoir

LESSON 12
Writing: Research for Personal Writing 104
Reading: Noting When a Writer Uses Research or Artifacts 107

LESSON 13
Writing: Drafting With Truth in Mind, Leaving Space for Facts 110
Reading: Deciphering an Author’s Truth and Perspective 114
For Fictional Narratives

LESSON 14
Writing: Drafting With Perspective in Mind 117
Reading: Considering the Author’s Choice of Perspective and Its Effects 121

LESSON 15
Writing: Research Makes Fiction Believable 124
Reading: Researching Outside a Text Can Open New Interpretations 128

FOR DIGITAL CLASSROOMS
Writing: Choosing the Best Platform for Your Story 131
Reading: The Platform Affects the Way You Interact With a Story 135

LESSONS FOR REVISING FOR MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE: ANALYSIS AND CRITIQUE 139

For All Narrative Genres

LESSON 16
Writing: Exploring Deeper Meaning in Drafts to Begin Revision 143
Reading: Identifying an Author’s Deeper Meaning Through Rereading and Writing 146
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Writing</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Compelling Stories Thrive on Conflict</td>
<td>Identifying the Scenes That Point to Conflict in a Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Craft Settings That Connect With Characters’ Emotions</td>
<td>Noticing a Relationship Between Setting and Character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Stories Extend and Elaborate on Larger Ideas</td>
<td>Tracking the Weight of a Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Increasing Suspense Through Revision</td>
<td>Spotting Moves Authors Use to Build Suspense Helps Readers Make Predictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Craft Dialogue to Match Character Personality and Uniqueness</td>
<td>Dialogue Gives Insights Into Characters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For Personal Narratives or Memoir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Narrator’s Voice Makes Perspective Clear</td>
<td>The Narrator’s Voice Sets up a Reader’s Inferences and Interpretations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Knowing the Significance of a Personal Story Can Help Writers to Foreshadow</td>
<td>Identifying Foreshadowing in a Story to Help Discover Theme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**For Digital Classrooms**

**Writing:** Revising Digitally Allows for Powerful Peer Feedback 200

**Reading:** Other Readers Can Give New Perspectives 204

**Lessons for Perfecting the Prose and Purpose: Deep Interpretation** 209

*For Fictional Narratives*

**Lesson 24**

**Writing:** Designing Beginnings and Endings That Entice and Linger 212

**Reading:** Savoring Beginnings and Endings 216

**Lesson 25**

**Writing:** Fewer Words Can Make More Impact 219

**Reading:** Considering Words Used and Not Used When Interpreting 223

**Lesson 26**

**Writing:** Using Symbolism to Give Readers Direction 226

**Reading:** Interpreting Symbols in Stories—When Everything Can Have Meaning 230

**Lesson 27**

**Writing:** Choosing and Smoothing Tense 234

**Reading:** Looking to Tense for Meaning 238

**Lesson 28**

**Writing:** The Many Purposes of Narrative Paragraphs 242

**Reading:** Reading Narrative Paragraphs on Surface and Inferential Levels 248

**Lesson 29**

**Writing:** Using Tools to Make Smart Spelling Decisions 252

**Reading:** Knowing an Author Carefully Chooses Words Helps Readers Develop Deeper Understanding 256
Visit the companion website at resources.corwin.com/writersreadbetter-narrative for videos and downloadable resources.