



Writer's Garden

Helping Children's Written Language Expression Grow

Lessons Taught by Licensed and Certified Speech Language Pathologists

Six week course (1 session/week) beginning week of 6/23/14 Designed for Children in **grades 4-8**

Focus: Informational, Narrative, and Persuasive Writing for children who:

Are good writers but want to be great

Are okay writers but want to be better

Struggle with organizing their writing pieces

Can't get their ideas onto paper

Session 1: The framework or outline of the "Writer's Garden"

Like a garden, each form of writing has a "framework" that defines its shape and structure. Students will learn to recognize and use a variety of frameworks to help them shape the basics of different writing pieces. Literature samples will be used for identifying styles and frameworks of writing. Students will demonstrate their baseline skills by creating their own writing pieces given age appropriate prompts.

Session 2: Cultivating the "Soil"

From the basic framework, specific details are added to the writing pieces. These are the details that are absolutely necessary to help the reader move from one section to the next (the soil or foundation to the garden). Students will demonstrate their ability to "cultivate the soil" in their own pieces uses those created in session 1.

Session 3: Selecting and Planting the "seeds" to form Connections

All good gardens need to have colorful flowers of various heights. It's the flow of the garden that depicts its true beauty. The same is true with writing. Good writing has flow. The ideas must connect from one to the next through careful use of transitions. Students will determine where important connections must be made to their writing pieces and make connections through use of transition phrases and words.

Session 4: Adding Color and Variety to the Garden

Gardens need a variety of hues and heights to draw attention to the eye. In writing, the hues are displayed through good word choice, strong character descriptions, and well "painted" settings. The students will work with their pieces to add these items to their work to make their words stand out. Literature examples will be used as models for their writing.

Session 5: Making it POP!

When a garden is in full bloom, it is eye-popping! The writer's garden requires a good balance of hooks, figurative language, quotations, numerical information, etc. to allow it to pop out at the reader in just the right places. The students will work with their current and new pieces to add these eye-popping features. They will have an opportunity to mirror well known authors writing styles by creating continuations of the texts using their own words.

Session 6: Weeding the Garden

Despite all of hard work, we have to weed our gardens to maintain their true beauty. The same is true for writing. Students will walk through their writer's garden to identify any "weeds" (errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, miswording, and sentence fragments). They will go through their writing pieces to "weed" and repair as appropriate.

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