



# Artists on Tour

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## *Creative Writing Workshop*

Students in the younger elementary grades are starting to learn proper spelling and grammar. However, giving them time to write without worrying about whether the grammar is correct will help develop their creative imagination. Develop their ideas then focus on correct spelling and grammar.

### ELEMENTS OF A STORY

Characters—who is in the story

Setting—where the story takes place

Plot—what happens in the story

### STRUCTURE OF A STORY

Beginning—introduces the characters, setting, and the action begins

Middle—something important happens, a problem occurs that needs to be solved

End—the problem is resolved

### ACTION VERSUS DESCRIPTION

Students usually have an easier time creating what happens in the story, but will lack description. What does the setting look like? If it is a zoo, what do the animal enclosures look like? Are they metal bars or glass? The same goes for describing characters. Are they tall or short, skinny? How do they walk—with good posture or slouching? Create writing exercises that focus on describing one thing or person, including brainstorming descriptive adjectives.

### IDEAS FOR A STORY

- ♦ Stories can be about anything, which is both good and bad. Sometimes deciding what the story is about can be the hardest part. Writers often start with something that is familiar to them:
  - a family trip (vacation or a day at an amusement park, museum, or sporting event)
  - pets
  - retell a story heard from a relative (such as when a grandparent was a kid)
- ♦ Sometimes writers are interested in a subject but do not have any experience with it. In this case they do research to learn about it. Research can include reading books, watching DVDs or TV shows about the subject, or talking to someone who is familiar with that subject. Have students list things they would like to know more about (this can be individually or as a group). Then have them select one and discuss where they can find more information about it.
- ♦ Have students write a story using their current vocabulary or spelling list.
- ♦ Have fun with other subjects the students are studying by letting them write a story about it. Most myths and folktales were created to explain the world. Have students create their own social studies or science tale.