

Name: Michelle O'Meara
School: Hood View Junior Academy
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Title: Letter Writing
Subjects: Reading, Writing, Bible, Art and Technology
Grade: first – third

Description:

*This lesson will begin with a story called "I wanna Iguana" by Karen Orloff. It is a story about a boy who wants an iguana and must first convince his mom that he is responsible enough to care for it. The whole story is the boy writing letter after letter to his mom about why he should get this iguana. After each letter from the boy, the mother writes a letter back asking about how much food the iguana needs, how big it might get and other great questions. This story is an excellent jump start into letter writing and learning how to express your feelings in a clear manner.

*The students will each pick an animal that God has created and begin writing their own letters. Ideas such as "I wanna llama", "I wanna piranha" or "I wanna puppy." After deciding what animal they want, each student must explain why and also try to convince mom or dad why this is a good idea.

*Students will illustrate each letter with crayons or markers.

*Students will put all their pages together to make a book complete with title page and cover. They will also leave every other page blank so their mom or dad may respond to each letter in writing.

*Once students have written at least four letters, they may choose one letter to illustrate and write with KidPix.

Faith Integration: God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:21

And God said "let the land produce living creature according to their kinds: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals, each according to their kinds.

And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:24

*Each student must decide which amazing creation of God they wish to write about.

Curriculum Benchmarks:

* Use input devices (e.g., mouse, keyboard, remote control) and output devices (e.g., monitor, printer) to successfully operate computers, VCRs, audiotapes, and other technologies. (1)

* Use a variety of media and technology resources for directed and independent learning activities. (1, 3)

* Practice responsible use of technology systems and software. (2)

* Create developmentally appropriate multimedia products with support from teachers, family members, or student partners. (3)

Software: KidPix

Teacher Preparation: Acquire story "I Wanna Iguana", have possible list of animals to write about in case students get "stuck."

Student Preparation: Students must know how to begin and end a letter politely. They must have knowledge of KidPix and understand how to save their work on the hard drive.

E valuation:

Letter-Writing : I Wanna Iguana...

Teacher Name: **Mrs. O'Meara**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Salutation and Closing	Salutation and closing have no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and closing have 1-2 errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and closing have 3 or more errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Salutation and/or closing are missing.
Grammar & spelling (conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar and/or spelling.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar and/or spelling	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar and/or spelling.
Ideas	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.
Capitalization and Punctuation	Writer makes no errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in capitalization and punctuation.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in capitalization and punctuation.
Envelope	Complete, accurate return address and recipient address. Addresses in correct positions.	Complete, accurate return address and recipient address. Position may be slightly off.	1-2 errors in return address. Recipient address is correct.	Addresses are incomplete and/or inaccurate.
Length	The letter is 5 or more sentences.	The letter is 4 sentences.	The letter is 3 sentences.	The letter is less than 2 sentences.
Ideas	Ideas were expressed in a clear and organized fashion. It was easy to figure out what the letter was about.	Ideas were expressed in a pretty clear manner, but the organization could have been better.	Ideas were somewhat organized, but were not very clear. It took more than one reading to figure out what the letter was about.	The letter seemed to be a collection of unrelated sentences. It was very difficult to figure out what the letter was about.

Date Created: **Jul 28, 2005 03:27 pm (CDT)**