

8. Bridge to a Language Building Lesson

1

Read: Pg. 159, Biographical Writing

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. According to the author, who is the easiest person to write about?

2. Who is the second easiest?

3. That type of writing is called...

4. Regardless of who you write about, what is the purpose of biographical writing?

5. List the characters in *Catfish and Mandala* that you have read about so far.
Which one do you think you might like to write about?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pgs. 160--161, Sample Biographical Essay: "He D.A.R.E.s to Make a Difference"

Activity: This biography has three parts, a beginning, a middle, and an end. According to the margins, the writer accomplishes certain things in each section. In the space provided, explain how the author accomplishes each:

1. Beginning- The Writer uses a story to introduce her subject. What happens in the story? _____

2. Middle- She shares the exact words of her subject. Write the quote here. _____

3. Middle- She also includes specific details about her subject. What are those details? _____

4. End- The writer closes with an important piece of advice. Write the advice here:

Activity: Consider the list of characters you made yesterday. Choose one you might want to write more about. Use the Beginning, Middle and End Prompts to help you plan the story.

1. Beginning- Use a story to introduce your subject: _____

2. Middle- Include a quote or two you're your subject:

3. Middle- Include specific details about your subject:

3. End- Close with an important piece of advice:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 3

Name: _____
Date: _____

Read: Pg. 162, Prewriting

Activity: Imagine you are Andrew Pham. List as many people as possible that might fit into each of the following categories

1. Family members or friends: _____

2. People who have influenced you positively: _____

3. Other people that interest you: _____

Read: Pg. 162, Gathering Details

Activity: No matter who you are writing about, the sources of information are the same. List them below.

1. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 4

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 165-166, A closer look at biographical writing and “Please Excuse Leah”

Activity: Use the Writing Tips on page 165 to answer the questions about the story on page 166.

1. What background information does Jesse Niebor provide about her sister Leah?

2. Does the author use any transitions or introductory phrases?

3. What information does the author simply summarize for you?

Activity: Imagine you wanted to write a biography about Andrew Pham. What specific event might you focus on, and which events might you choose to simply summarize?

1. _____
-
-
-

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 5

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 99

Read: pg. 99, Descriptive Paragraph.

Activity: Fill in the blanks.

1. In a _____ paragraph, you give a clear, _____ picture of one person, place of object. The following sample describes a popular outfit from an earlier generation. The description is organized by order of _____, starting at the top with the _____ and ending with the shoes.

Read: Pg. 99, *Dressing for Swing*.

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. What is the topic sentence?

2. List three details about the Zoot Suit hat.

3. Describe the Zoot Suit jacket.

4. Explain how the dress shirt is worn.

5. What other piece of information is interesting or useful in understanding the Zoot Suit?

6. What is the closing sentence?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead

Catfish and Mandala, Day 6

Name: _____

Date:_____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 99

Read: pg. 99, Descriptive Paragraph.

Activity: Use the space below to describe downtown Saigon. Try following the format of the paragraph on zoot suits. Use an Introduction. Start with the streets and work your way to the vendors and café's. Then conclude.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 7

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 237

Read: pg. 237, Writing Business Letters

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. Name three types of workplace writing?

2. Of the three, which is most formal?

3. Name four reasons one might write a business letter.

4. What's ahead in this chapter?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 8

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 238

Read: Pg. 238

Activity: Explain each part of a business letter.

1. Heading:

2. Inside Address:

3. Salutation:

4. Body:

5. Closing:

6. Signature:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 9

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 239

Read: Pg. 239

Activity: Answer the following questions about the letter on page 239.

1. What state is this letter being sent from?

2. Who is the letter going to? What is her professional title?

3. Who is sending the letter?

4. What is the purpose of the letter?

5. What closing does Rosa use?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 10

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 240

Read: Pg. 240

Activity: Today, in your reading, Andrew's experiences with Kim caused him to contemplate his fate. He found himself wondering why he seemed to be so much luckier than her. Pretend you are Andrew. Plan a letter to your brother, Tien where you describe Kim and ask him for advice on whether you should bring her back with you or not.

Purpose:

Reader:

Details:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 11

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 241

Read: Pg. 241

Activity: Take out the letter you wrote to Andrew in yesterday. Make two revision suggestions (add a detail, and make something more clear). Then, trade with a partner and edit, checking for misspellings, misused words and run-on sentences.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 12

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 173.

Read: Pg. 173, Writing News Stories.

Activity: List the three basic reporting skills.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Activity: Fill in the matrix below, demonstrating your understanding of basic reporting skills, using information from today's reading of ***Catfish and Mandala***

Newsworthy Topic	The Facts	Beginning, Middle, And End of the Story

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 13

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 174.

Read: Pg. 174, Sample News Story.

Activity: List the three most important facts that Janelle Amos had to collect in order to write this story on the Delmer High School Senior-of-the-Year Award.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Activity: Pretend you are a reporter in Shreveport, Mississippi. List the five most important facts about the Pham's from today's story.

4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 14

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 175.

Read: Pg. 175, Writing Guidelines.

Activity: Answer the following questions:

1. What five questions should be answered in the introductory paragraph?

2. List the who, what, where, when, and why for a local news story you are aware of.

3. List the who, what, when, where, and why for a human interest story about someone close to you.

4. List the who, what, when, where and why of today's reading ***Catfish and Mandala***

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 15

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 176.

Read: Pg. 176, Gathering Details.

Activity: Write five interview questions you would ask the Pham family if you were a reporter sent to write about Chi. Each question should start with who, what, when, where or why.

1. Who:

2. What:

3. Where:

4. When:

5. Why:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 16

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 177, Writing and Revising

Activity: Answer the questions below.

1. Where do the rest of the details not mentioned in the introduction go? In the Beginning, middle or End?

2. Should you use quotations in a news article? How often?

Activity: Copy the Revision checklist. You will use it to revise today's journal.

_____ 1.

_____ 2.

_____ 3.

_____ 4.

_____ 5.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 17

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read: Pg. 178, Editing: Checking for Style and Correctness

Activity: Complete the sentences on editing below.

1. First, _____

2. Then, _____

Activity: Use the editing tools to edit the following mistakes.

1. Fix the spelling in speling.
2. Provide a more specific noun for acceptance *talk*.
3. Correct this sentence fragment. I like her. Helped us out a lot.
4. Make a correction in capitalization to chi pham.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 18

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 253

Read: pg. 253

Activity: Brainstorm possible sources of information.

1. If Andrew wanted to write a paper about the history of Hanoi, where do you think he should look for information?

2. If you wanted to do a project about Ho Chi Minh, where do you think would be the best place to look for information?

3. Two general sources of information are _____ sources and _____ sources.

4. Would the library be a good source of information if you wanted to find a recipe for baking a cake? Are there any better sources for that information?

5. If Andrew wanted to write a research paper about his ancestors, who or what would be the best source of information?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 19

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 254

Read: pg. 254

Activity: Identify each source as either a primary source or a secondary source.

1. Interviewing Cu-Den's dad about his job is a _____ source.
2. Reading a book about the Vietnam War is a _____ source.
3. A direct source of information is a _____ source.
4. Going to a diner that served ginger-roasted dog meat to research local cuisine is a _____ source.
5. If Andrew went to the library to research Ho Chi Minh, hhe would be using a _____ source.
6. If the peasant woman asked Andrew about being Viet-kieu, she would be using a _____ source.
7. When Andrew reads the newspaper in the morning, he is reading a _____ source.
8. Reading an article online about your favorite book is a _____ source.
9. If Andrew asked the peasant woman her views on being a good person, he would be using a _____ source.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 20

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 255

Read: pg. 255

Activity: Match each source with one of the five types of primary sources.

Type of Primary Source	Source
1. Observation and Participation b	a. ____ Andrew keeps Tien updated on his trip with daily internet reports.
2. Surveys and Forms	b. ____ Andrew takes mental notes as he watches his extended family interact over dinner.
3. Interviews c	c. ____ Andrew asks his grandmother to tell him what his mother did in Vietnam that was so shameful.
4. Presentation	d. ____ Andrew takes orders from his cousins before he returns to the food table.
5. Diaries, Journal, and Letters a	e. ____ Grandma Le shows Andrew pictures from his childhood in Saigon.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 21

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pg. 256

Read: pg. 256

Activity: Evaluate the following sources of information. Are they reliable sources? Why?

1. The old man asks Andrew how American Vietnam Veterans feel about the Vietnamese people.

2. The old man asks Andrew how he feels being a Viet-kieu.

3. An article on the Ho Chi Minh's life in *The Journal of Vietnamese History*.

4. An interview with Andrew Pham about the town he grew up in.

5. Andrew tells the old man not to bother with the ancient coin because ancient medicine doesn't work.

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 22

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a mini-Lesson using *Write Ahead* pgs. 257-259

Read: pgs. 257-259

Activity: Answer questions about the internet.

1. Where would be a good place to ask a question about *Catfish and Mandala*?

2. Would a message board be a more reliable source than a book or an interview?

3. What keyword(s) would you use to search for information about the city of Hue?

4. Each website has its own _____.

5. Many websites maintain _____ where visitors can posts questions about a topic and get answers from others.

6. _____ is a word that means using good manners on the net.

7. The internet is made up of many _____ computers.

8. The three basic rules of netiquette are:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 23

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 246.

Read: Pg. 246, "Sample E-mail Message"

Activity: Answer the following questions:

1. What is the subject of this email?

2. Why does the author want to write about Jiaozi?

- _____
- _____
- _____

3. If you were to respond to Chen Wei Wu, where would you send your response?

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 24

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 248

Read: Pg. 248, Sample Memo

Activity: Answer the following questions.

1. Who is the memo to?

2. Who is it from?

3. What three things has Robert done to find out if the new locker room will have sufficient space?

- _____
- _____
- _____

Activity: Write yourself a memo reminding you of three things you need to do today. Include a heading, a middle and a closing.

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 250

Read: Pg. 250, Sample Proposal

Activity: Pretend you are Andrew. Write a proposal to your father suggesting how the two of you might fix your strained relationship. This will serve as a rough draft for today's journal.

Heading:

Project Description:

What will each need to do differently in the future?:

Specific life changes each of you will have to make

Outcome:

Closing:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead
Catfish and Mandala, Day 26

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 251

Read: Pg. 251, Writing Guidelines: Proposals

Activity: Pretend you are Andrew. You have made it home safely, and have written a memoir of your adventure. You wish to have it published, as you know it will be a best seller. Plan and write a proposal to a publisher. Fill in these blanks to help you plan.

Date: _____

To: _____

From: _____

Subject: _____

State your main point:

Explain your plan: (What are your memoir about? List three significant events in your memoir that will be guaranteed selling points. Discuss the most important thing you learned on your adventure, and suggest what you hope readers will take away after reading it. When will you have it done? How much money would you like up front? How much upon completion? Etc.

Ask for approval:

Character Based Literacy Program Write Ahead

Catfish and Mandala, Day 27

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teach a Mini Lesson using *Write AHEAD* page 251

Read: Pg. 251, Writing Guidelines: Writing, Revising and Editing

Activity: using the space provided, write a rough draft of the memoir proposal you planned yesterday.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the paper is completely blank except for the lines.

Now, Revise using this checklist:

Does my proposal include enough details?

Did I state and organize my points effectively

Trade and check for effective words and sentences as well as spelling and punctuation. Make necessary changes.