WV TREE Resource:

English Language Arts

Resource Name: Creating a Character’s Childhood

Grade Level(s): 6th, 7th, 8th

Resource Summary/Overview: Students will use this activity in place of a more traditional book report. Students will read a story about the wizard Merlin and explore how the author creates a childhood for Merlin, whom readers typically meet as an adult. Students will self-select adult characters they have encountered in their reading and create a childhood for the character, using Jane Yolen’s story as a model text.

Length: 4 50-minute sessions

Domain(s) Addressed: (Reading, Writing, Speaking/Listening, and/or Language)

Reading, Writing

West Virginia College- and Career-Readiness Standards:

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| ELA.7.22 | Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences. * Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
* Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
* Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
* Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
* Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.
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Delivery Method(s): Whole group, individual

Resource Materials: copies of Jane Yolen materials, access to self-selected novels or stories

Resource Purpose(s): Analysis/synthesis

Instructor Notes: For story: http://www.santeesd.net/cms/lib/CA01000468/Centricity/Domain/287/Merlin%20and%20the%20Dragons.pdf

For lesson:

http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/book-report-alternative-creating-a-958.html