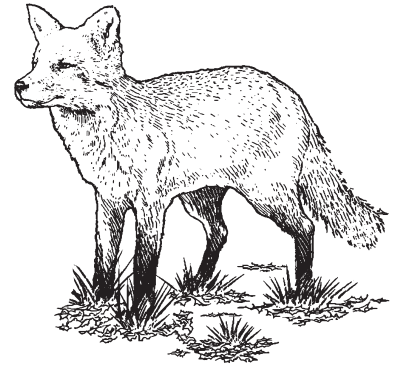


Writing Curriculum



This curriculum utilizes a student-driven writers workshop format, where choice is given in in how and what they write, as well as individualized skills taught on a needs basis. The workshop is structured to maximize independent writing and teaches a variety of skills professional writers utilize, such as researching, drafting, revising, reflecting, conferencing, editing, and publishing. K12 integrated writing curriculum takes a week or more to complete.

CONTENTS

LEARNING GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS	2
Part 1 Introduction - Writers Workshop	
Part 2 Writing - Discover	
Part 3 Writing - Create	
Part 4 Art & Humanities - Present	
INTRODUCTION RESOURCES	
Advice Examples <i>(Part 1.1)</i>	3
SUPPLEMENTAL WORKSHEETS	
Writing Advice Essentials <i>(Part 1.2)</i>	6
Nature Nouns Brainstorm Worksheet <i>(Part 1.2)</i>	7
Choosing Your Subject One <i>(Part 2.3)</i>	6
Choosing Your Subject Two <i>(Part 2.3)</i>	7
Choosing Your Subject Three <i>(Part 2.3)</i>	8
Personification Lesson 101 <i>(Part 2.4)</i>	9
Poetry Writing Self-Reflection <i>(Part 4.3)</i>	10
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	11
More Activity Ideas	
About Your True Nature	

writing curriculum

LEARNING GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS

PART ONE | INTRODUCTION

WRITERS WORKSHOP

1. NATURE'S ADVICE BRAINSTORM

Look at the examples from Your True Nature Bookmarks (page 3). Think, Pair, Share what you notice about these simple poems and their writing structure.

2. WRITING WARM-UP

Complete the 'Writing Advice Essentials' (page 4) worksheet to warm-up your figurative language skills, which will aid in completing this packet.

PART TWO | WRITING

DISCOVER

1. BRAINSTORM

Use the 'Nature Nouns Brainstorm' worksheet (page 5) to generate a list of ideas you might wish to explore from nature in two minutes.

2. CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECT

From your brainstorm list, circle three that you are most interested in.

3. QUICK WRITE EXPLORATION

Write one of the three chosen subjects on each of the three 'Choosing Your Subject...' worksheets (pages 6–8). For each subject, first focus on attributes. Write as many ideas associated with your subject as 2 minutes will allow. Use your 5 senses. Think aloud how the idea you chose looks, smells, sounds, etc. How does it act? What does it need?

4. PERSONIFICATION 101

Figurative language that attributes human qualities to something nonhuman is called personification. Complete the 'Personification Lesson 101' worksheet (Page 9). Think aloud

and fill in the rest of the 'attributes' column. What attributes fit the corresponding poem lines for the Earth poem?

PART THREE | WRITING

CREATE

WRITE YOUR ADVICE POEM

Choose **one** subject by reviewing the three quick writes. Thinking aloud, use the attributes to develop a piece of advice for each. Choose seven of your favorite poem lines and order them how you'd like them to appear.

Poems should be 7 lines long.

Poems should have simple sentences that state attributes about the subject in the form of advice.

Use humor, puns, personification, and other figurative language.

Save your strongest advice for the last, as a punch line.

PART FOUR | ART & HUMANITIES

PRESENT

1. PUBLISHING

Once you have a final draft complete, create a poster with your advice poem.

2. SHARE

Share your advice with family and friends and/or on social media. Don't forget to share with us using hashtag: #ytnLearn.

3. SELF-REFLECTION

Answer the questions from the 'Poetry Writing Self-Reflection' worksheet (page 10).

WANT TO LEARN MORE?! Explore writing workshops further with the additional activities on page 11.

INTRODUCTION
ADVICE EXAMPLES



Advice from a
CAVE

- Breathe Deep
- Find Beauty In Unexpected Places
- Search Inward
- See the Hole Picture
- Good Things Take Time
- Look Beneath the Surface
- Hang Tight!

Your True Nature



Advice from a
LLAMA

- Pack Life with Fun
- Have a Gentle Spirit
- Own Your Genius
- Celebrate Your Heritage
- Make People Smile
- Experience Shear Joy
- Spit it Out!

Your True Nature



Advice from an
OWL

- Stay Focused
- Be "Whoo" You Are
- Trust in a Wise Friend
- Live Off the Land
- Glide Through the Dark Times
- Be Observant
- Life's a Hoot!

Your True Nature



Advice from a
FOX

- Rely on Your Instincts
- Have a Playful Spirit
- Find a Cozy Den
- Be Bright-eyed and Bushy-tailed
- Stop, Look and Listen
- Be Light on Your Feet
- Have Good Scents!

Your True Nature



Advice from a
SEA TURTLE

- Swim with the Current
- Be a Good Navigator
- Stay Calm Under Pressure
- Be Well Traveled
- Think Long Term
- Age Gracefully
- Spend Time at the Beach!

Your True Nature

WRITING ADVICE ESSENTIALS

Name _____

1. A **NOUN** is a person, place or thing. Underline all the **NOUNS** in the poem.

Advice from a Lake™

Be clear
Make positive ripples
Look beneath the surface
Stay calm
Shore up friendships
Take time to reflect
Be full of life!

2. A **VERB** describes is an action. Underline all the **VERBS** in the poem.

Advice from a Bear™

Live large
Climb beyond your limitations
When life gets hairy, grin and bear it
Eat well
Live with the seasons
Take a good, long nap
Look after your honey!

Match the definitions on the right with the 'Advice from Nature' poem lines. Some may fit with multiple definitions, but make sure each definition has one poem line.

3. _____ Be 'hoo' you are.
ADVICE FROM AN OWL
4. _____ Listen to the voice of the wind.
ADVICE FROM A CANYON
5. _____ Come out of your shell.
ADVICE FROM THE OCEAN
6. _____ The sky's the limit!
ADVICE FROM A BLUEBIRD
7. _____ Treat yourself like a monarch.
ADVICE FROM A BUTTERFLY
8. _____ Live a legendary life.
ADVICIE FROM SASQUATCH
9. _____ Don't be a stick in the mud.
ADVICE FROM A BEAVER

a. simile - Comparing two things using 'like' or 'as'.

b. metaphor - Comparing two things without 'like' or 'as'.

c. personification - Giving a human quality to something nonhuman.

d. alliteration - A phrase with repetitive letters or sounds.

e. onomatopoeia - A word that sounds the way it is spelled.

f. hyperbole - An exaggerated statement that is not literal.

g. idiom - A phrases that does not relate to the meanings of its individual words.

PERSONIFICATION LESSON 101

Name _____

SUBJECT

Earth

Details/Attributes

The earth
is round

Advice

Be well
rounded

Keep a positive
atmosphere

Have a magnetic
personality

Celebrate
diversity

Think
globally

Be good to your
mother

There's no place
like home!

POETRY WRITING SELF-REFLECTION

Name _____

1. What did you learn from writing an "Advice from Nature" poem? Discuss insights you hadn't considered before this unit.

2. What did you learn from writing an "Advice from Nature" poem? Discuss insights you hadn't considered before this unit.

3. Based on your poem, what advice would you recommend to others after this poetry unit?

4. After this poetry unit, generalize ways nature can inspire you.

3. Did you use humor in any of your presentation pieces? (puns, play on words, quips, etc) Explain how you used humor. If you didn't use humor, discuss how you could add humor to one or more of your presentation/portfolio pieces, (poetry or extension writings).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

EXPLORE MORE!

WRITING

Students develop a new advice poem from one of the other chosen subjects

WRITING, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, MUSIC

Students continue in the same subject and write in another genre: an expository piece, an information brochure, a fiction story, a song, or a rap. (Research as needed.)

GRAPHIC ART

Students design and publish a poster from their Advice poems. Study ideas from Your True Nature examples. Discuss placement of title, images, and text. Do many thumbnail sketches of poster design.

THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

The mission of the National Writing Project is to develop "knowledge, expertise, and leadership of our nation's educators on sustained efforts to improve writing and learning for all learners. The NWP envisions a future where every person is an accomplished writer, engaged learner, and active participant in a digital, interconnected world. Its web site is rich in resources."

Visit nwp.org

30 Strategies for Teaching Writing

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/922>

Find a NWP site in your state.

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/doc/findasite/home.csp>

More writing resources!

<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/doc/resources.csp>

Your True Nature Character Education Curriculum is based on its popular Advice from Nature products. The company uses a portion of its profits to plant trees, fund environmental organizations, and support teachers with free curriculum and materials.

Advice from Nature is about listening to nature to discover life lessons and sharing one's best gifts. It all started with Advice from a Tree, then Advice from a River, Mountain, Garden, and Hummingbird. It has grown to include advice from over 85 different sources from Nature.

As the company received comments from teachers across North America describing how they were using Advice in their classrooms and their students' wonderful responses, Your True Nature launched its Educational Program of providing online curriculum and providing free bookmarks and posters to those requesting teaching materials.

The Advice from Nature art and text are copyrighted and trademarked properties, but the company is delighted to have teachers and students using the concepts for learning. No use of any of the Advice text and art for resale is permitted. This includes other text and art developed by teachers and students using the advice concept. Your True Nature enjoys seeing how the concept is used. Materials may be submitted to them online at www.yourtruenature.com/share-your-advice. We love to hear from you and appreciate all your comments and feedback.



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