

Woodside Learning Center

Creative Writing: Pet Stories

(Grades 3-7) Online

8 Weeks : Aug 27-Oct 21, 2018

Instructor: Cyndy McKinley

Note: This is a supplemental course. This is not a graded course. The teacher will review student assignments and provide feedback. Students will also receive an evaluation and course breakdown for their own files.

This creative writing course is aimed at both reluctant and inspired writers. Students will each adopt a toy or animated “pet” and use their imagination to explore the creature’s traits, personality, and skills. As students conduct interviews, write letters, and compose essays about their quirky little animals they will absorb skills in the six traits of writing (ideas, organization, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, & conventions) without even realizing it!

The **face-to-face** class meets one hour per week at our Weddington location. In addition to weekly class attendance, students have access to online discussions and activities on the course website. Students will email assignments to the instructor each week. She will review the assignments, provide comments, and return them to the student. On the occasion that a student is unable to attend a weekly class session due to other obligations, he or she will have the ability to review the missed material online.

Students enrolled as **fully online** learners will have access to the same online discussions and activities as the face-to-face students. In addition, our website presents the activities and content discussed in the live classroom. Students will interact with other students and the teacher via weekly discussion forums and activities. Each week the student will post a writing assignment that the teacher will review (via email).

ONLINE COURSE SCHEDULE: (Fully online students should be reading at or above 4th grade level)

Students have one week to complete the weekly lesson activities. Activities are grouped by proficiency level. This class runs “asynchronously” (participants do not need to be online at the same time). **Tuition: \$100**

Registration: Please visit our website to download a registration form. www.woodsdelc.com

Week	Topic	Lesson
#1	Interview/ Informational Story (organization, word choice)	How much is that dragon in the window? Plastic creatures have overrun the classroom. Students will select one animal and interview each other about their pets.
#2	Senses/Descriptive Paragraph (word choice, ideas)	What do I smell? What do I see? The pets have wandered into a magical forest. Students will write a descriptive essay using their pet’s particular sensory strengths.
#3	Point of View/ Narrative Essay (voice, fluency)	Have you ever seen a whale on a skateboard? The class pets have new transportation. Students will write about their pet on a vehicle from the point of view of a bystander.
#4	Drawing Conclusions/ Newspaper Article (organization, voice)	Where, oh where has my rhinoceros gone? All pets are missing from the classroom. Students will draw conclusions from the clues and write a newspaper account of the rescue.
#5	Thesaurus/ Descriptive Essay (voice, word choice)	What should I wear to the ball? The class pets have invited to Cinderella’s ball. Students will describe their pets & the costumes they’ll wear.
#6	Problem/Solution (ideas, fluency)	Oh <i>deer</i> , what can the matter be? Trouble is brewing as the pets cause havoc. Students will write about a specific pet problem and come up with a solution.
#7	Letter Writing/Persuasive Essay (word choice, ideas)	Will you take her, please? The pets are just too difficult to care for. Students will write a formal letter to a zookeeper, persuading her to adopt the pet.
#8	Compare/Contrast (organization, conventions)	How much for the little penguin? Students will choose a new pet and compare/contrast it to their old one.

Schedule subject to change

Contact Information:

For more information or to register, please visit our class website or contact Cyndy McKinley

www.woodsdelc.com

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