

# Creative Story Ideas Literacy Center



**ELA Core Plans**

Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans

Thank you for purchasing this teaching unit. We hope you love it!  
Tammy and Shannon



**DO NOT PHOTOCOPY**  
(Except for your own classroom)



**DO NOT POST ONLINE.**

By Shannon Temple and Tammy Lewis  
ELA Core Plans  
S&T Publications, LLC  
[www.elacoreplans.com](http://www.elacoreplans.com)

Copyright © 2015 S&T Publications, LLC

Limited reproduction permission: For each ebook purchased, S&T Publications grants permission for only one teacher to make as many copies as needed for his or her classes. Reproduction by/for other teachers, classes, or for commercial use is strictly prohibited.

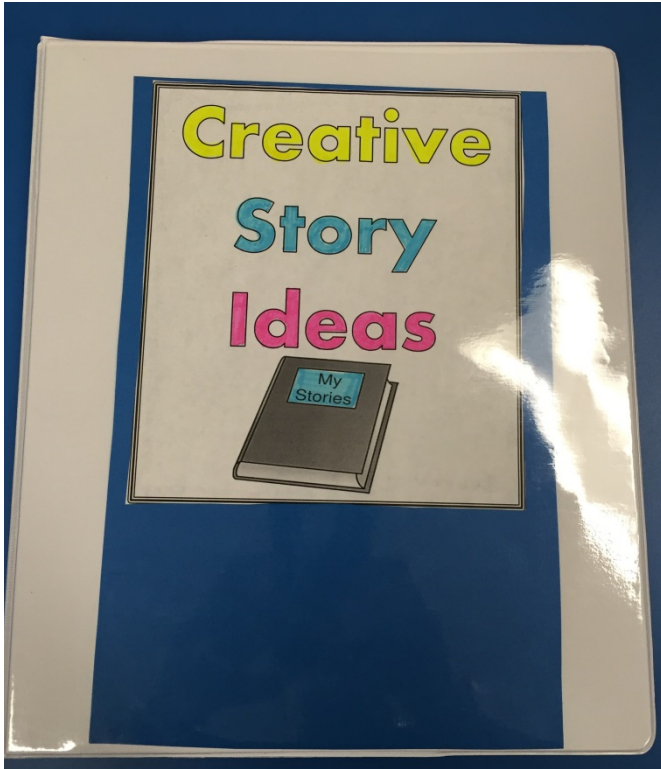
# Literacy Center Creative Writing Story Ideas

## Set up the center

- Print the two activity pages. Place them in page protectors or laminate them.
- Place them in a folder, three ring binder, or basket. We have found that a three-ring binder works best.
- Copy the directions on the next page, and place in a page protector inside the three-ring binder. If you are using folders, you can tape these directions on the outside of the folder.
- There is a page of frequently asked questions. Place these right behind the directions to help students know what to do.
- There are also sample paragraphs for you to place in the center.
- Place paper at the center, in the binder, or in the folder for students to use as they write these paragraphs. You may wish to display students' creations on a board or wall in your room.

\*\*Scholastic holds a contest each year called *Kids Are Authors* where students can collaborate with a group to write a children's book. Check out the Scholastic website for information about this contest. If it is something you are interested in doing, this entire center can be geared towards creating ideas, characters, settings, and plots that can be used in a children's book. When students visit this center, they will be working towards this final project, as they may end up using a character or setting that they created while using this center.

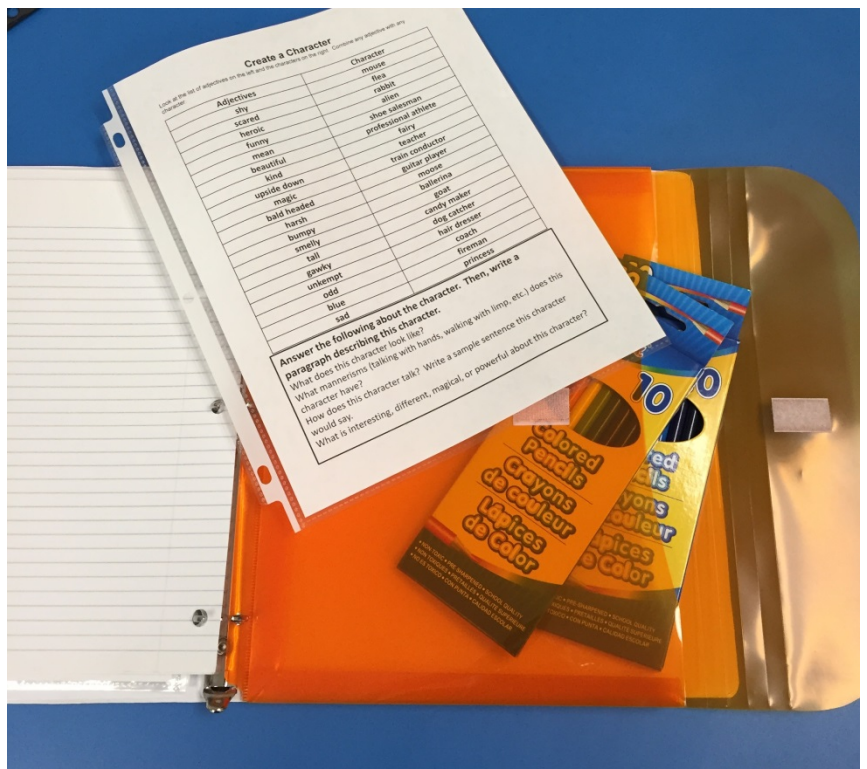
# A Peek Inside this Center



Everything fits nicely in a three-ring binder!

These pocket folders with holes can easily hold colored pencils or crayons.

Place the setting and character charts inside page protectors. Put notebook paper inside for students to use.



# Student Work Sample

Adjectives: friendly,  
Character(s): dinosaur, cave boy

What does this character look like? Dinosaur:  
Green with orange dots, square teeth, long pointy  
tail, two legs, tiny arms. Cave boy: Cavemen outfit (checkered print),  
messed up brown hair, no shoes, short

What mannerisms does the character have? Walk <sup>Dinosaur</sup>  
on two legs, uses mouth to get leaves. Cave boy: Walks  
on hands and legs (like crab)

How does the character talk? Dinosaur: Sweet,  
high pitched. Cave boy: Stutters, speech probs.

What is interesting, different, magical, or  
power about the character? Talking dinosaur,  
Cave boy: Walks/acts like animal



# Student Sample

Adjectives: enchanted, adventurous

Location: Planet

What does this place look like? Orange grass, white cotton trees/bushes, lavender skies, turquoise river,

What does this place smell like? rainforest (fresh, tropical)

What does this place feel like? Perfect temp., safe, friendly

What is interesting, different, magical, or powerful about this place? Robots, different color nature

It was an adventurous, enchanted planet with orange grass, trees and bushes made of cotton balls, a lavender sky, and a translucent, turquoise river. A fresh, tropical rainforest was what the planet smelt like. When you are at this planet you feel safe, everyone is friendly and it has the perfect temperature.

## Directions

1. Find the pages that have charts with adjectives, setting, and characters. You will be matching up an adjective to a setting and an adjective to a character and then writing two descriptive paragraphs.
2. To create a setting, combine an adjective from the chart on the left with a location on the right. You may come up with your own adjective and location if you wish.
3. On a sheet of notebook paper, write the adjective and location at the top. Then, write a paragraph describing this setting. Use lots of details. You may draw a picture to go with your description.
4. To create a character, combine an adjective from the chart on the left with a character on the right. You may come up with your own adjective and character if you wish.
5. On a sheet of notebook paper, write the adjective and character at the top. Then, write a paragraph describing this character. You may draw a picture to go with your description.
6. You must complete this assignment for a setting and a character.
7. If there are more than two people using this center, pair up and complete this with a partner. When you are finished, share what you have written with the others in the group.
8. If time, illustrate your paragraph by drawing a picture of the character or setting. You may color it as well.

# Frequently Asked Questions About Directions

**Q. If I am working with a partner, can only one of us write the paragraphs, or do we both have to write ?**

A. You both need to write the paragraphs so that each of you has a finished product to be graded. You may both write the same thing or choose to do your own.

**Q. How long does my paragraph need to be?**

A. Your paragraph should be at least five sentences, if not more. Follow the guidelines and look at the sample.

**Q. Am I writing a story?**

A. No, this is a paragraph written to describe a character and setting. Look at the example.

**Q. Can I pair up any adjective with any character or place?**

A. Yes.

**Q. Can I make up my own adjective and character or own adjective and place? Can I use two or three adjectives to describe my setting or character?**

A. Yes and yes

**Q. Where do I write the paragraph?**

A. On a sheet of notebook paper

**Q. Can I write both paragraphs on the same sheet of paper?**

A. Yes, that is fine.

**Q. Does the setting need to match the character?**

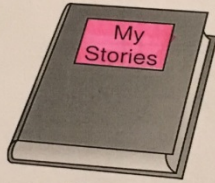
A. No, these are two separate paragraphs. Your setting does not have to have anything to do with the character, and the character does not have to have anything to do with the setting that you chose.

**Q. What do I do if I finish early?**

A. First, read over your work. Make sure your paragraph is neat and makes sense. Did you capitalize the first word of every sentence? Do you have any run-on sentences or fragments? Do you need to look up any words that you may have misspelled? Once this is complete, make sure you illustrate your character and setting. If you complete all of this, work on the early finish work that your teacher provides.



# Creative Story Ideas



## Directions

1. To create a setting, combine an adjective from the chart on the left with a location on the right.
2. Write a paragraph describing this setting. Use lots of details. You may draw a picture to go with your description.
3. To create a character, combine an adjective from the chart on the left with a character on the right.
4. Write a paragraph describing this character. You may draw a picture to go with your description.
5. If there are more than two people at this station, pair up and complete this with a partner. When you are finished, share what you have written with the others in the group.

If using folders for your centers, place notebook paper and these two handouts inside. The charts can be printed on cardstock for durability.

### Create a Character

Look at the list of adjectives on the left and the characters on the right. Combine any adjective with any character.

| Adjectives  | Character            |
|-------------|----------------------|
| shy         | mouse                |
| scared      | flea                 |
| heroic      | rabbit               |
| funny       | alien                |
| mean        | shoe salesman        |
| beautiful   | professional athlete |
| kind        | fairy                |
| upside down | teacher              |
| magic       | train conductor      |
| bald headed | guitar player        |
| harsh       | moose                |
| bumpy       | ballerina            |
| smelly      | goat                 |
| tall        | candy maker          |
| gawky       | dog catcher          |
| unkempt     | hair dresser         |
| odd         | coach                |
| blue        | fireman              |
| sad         | princess             |

Answer the following about the character. Then, write a paragraph describing this character.

1. How does this character look like?

2. How does this character talk? Write a sample sentence this character says.

3. How is this character magical, or powerful about this character?

### Create a setting

Look at the list of adjectives on the left and the places on the right. Combine any adjectives with any location.

| Adjectives  | Locations          |
|-------------|--------------------|
| scared      | dumpster           |
| heroic      | hallway            |
| funny       | principal's office |
| mean        | parking lot        |
| beautiful   | planet             |
| kind        | island             |
| upside down | hot air balloon    |
| magic       | swamp              |
| bald headed | castle             |
| harsh       | graveyard          |
| bumpy       | volcano            |
| smelly      | school bus         |
| tall        | classroom          |
| gawky       | inside a bubble    |
| unkempt     | attic              |
| odd         | toy store          |
| blue        | snore              |
| sad         | ment               |
|             | oom                |

Write a paragraph describing this place?

# Creative Story Ideas



## Create a setting

Look at the list of adjectives on the left and the places on the right. Combine any adjectives with any location to create a setting.

| <b>Adjectives</b> | <b>Locations</b>   |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| peaceful          | dumpster           |
| enchanted         | hallway            |
| crowded           | principal's office |
| noisy             | parking lot        |
| cramped           | planet             |
| eerie             | island             |
| shrinking         | hot air balloon    |
| stuffy            | swamp              |
| fancy             | castle             |
| filthy            | graveyard          |
| tiny              | volcano            |
| peculiar          | school bus         |
| gloomy            | classroom          |
| suspicious        | inside a bubble    |
| strange           | attic              |
| dilapidated       | toy store          |
| impressive        | canoe              |
| humongous         | basement           |
| haunted           | waiting room       |

**Answer the following about the location. Then, write a paragraph describing this place.**

What does this place look like?

What does this place smell like?

What does it feel like at this place?

What is interesting, different, magical, or powerful about this place?

# Create a Character

Look at the list of adjectives on the left and the characters on the right. Combine any adjective with any character.

| Adjectives  | Character            |
|-------------|----------------------|
| shy         | mouse                |
| scared      | flea                 |
| heroic      | rabbit               |
| funny       | alien                |
| mean        | shoe salesman        |
| beautiful   | professional athlete |
| kind        | fairy                |
| upside down | teacher              |
| magic       | train conductor      |
| bald headed | guitar player        |
| harsh       | moose                |
| bumpy       | ballerina            |
| smelly      | goat                 |
| tall        | candy maker          |
| gawky       | dog catcher          |
| unkempt     | hair dresser         |
| odd         | coach                |
| blue        | fireman              |
| sad         | princess             |

**Answer the following about the character. Then, write a paragraph describing this character.**

What does this character look like?

What mannerisms (talking with hands, walking with limp, etc.) does this character have?

How does this character talk? Write a sample sentence this character would say.

What is interesting, different, magical, or powerful about this character?