

Tell Me a Story

Teacher Name: Annette Vordenbaum, Beauregard Elementary

Grade level: 2

Content Areas: Social Studies, Language, Writing

Description/Abstract: Describe how primary sources serve as historical records of families.

Timeline: 5 days

Goals/Content and Cognitive:

Students will be able to identify the chronological order of events in their own lives using drawings and photos of themselves and asking their parents questions. Students will write about a significant adult person and their life experience in their community, ten years ago or more, and relate it to world events of that time. Students will use technology to learn about the author Angela Johnson from *This Goodly Land: Alabama's Literary Landscape* (www.alabamaliterarymap.org), and about how to write a biography from *The Biography Maker* (<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/bio/biomak2.htm>).

Links to Curriculum Standards:

Alabama State Department of Education Course of Study Standards (www.alsde.edu/html/sections/):

SOCIAL STUDIES: Second grade students will be able to describe how primary sources serve as historical records of families and communities. Students will identify chronological order of events using a time line.

LANGUAGE: Second grade students will organize thought in paragraph form with a thesis sentence and supporting statements. Students will demonstrate appropriate listening and communicating behaviors.

INFORMATION LITERACY STANDARD for 2nd Grade
(www.alsde.edu/general/LiteracyPartners.pdf):

Identify the setting of a story.
Identify the details in a story.
Recognize award winning books.
Identify the Internet as a source.

PRELESSON ACTIVITY: Read the story aloud using the comprehension questions from Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI).

Guiding Questions:

Do you think this is a fiction or non-fiction story?
Why do you think the children in the book enjoyed these stories?

What stories do you like to hear your parents tell about when you were a baby?
Have you ever heard stories about when your parents or grandparents were young?

Assessment:

Students will write about a family member. Second Grade Writing Rubric will measure the quality of the paper. Students will turn in prewriting brainstorming work, drafting, revising after conferencing with a partner, and editing. Published work will be displayed.

Learning Connections:

Students may find this lesson difficult when unpleasant memories are discussed. Students will observe many biographical examples from other children's literature with a focus on *Tell Me a Story, Mama* by Angela Johnson. These examples will show students events and topics to ask relatives about to keep them focused when asking questions and when writing about family events.

Learning Activities or Tasks:

Students will create a photo chronological timeline of themselves at home. Students will use the Internet to research Angela Johnson at the Web site, *This Goodly Land* (www.alabamaliterarymap.org), to understand more about the author. Students will use *The Biography Maker* Web site (<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/bio/biomak2.htm>) to create a biography of a family member. Students may draw a picture of the relative or show a photo with their biography in a creative manner to be displayed in the hallway.

Teaching Strategies:

Students will think and ask questions before, during and after they hear the book read aloud. The teacher will provide oral and written examples from her own life. The teacher will use the computer lab to enable all students to access the Internet at one time and complete the assignment.

Management:

Students will raise their hands for help. Students off-task will move their clothespin on the red light and lose privileges as deemed necessary. Special needs students will work with an aide to complete computer activities and will be given one-on-one assistance as they fill in a guided practice form for the biography. Many examples of biographies will be placed in the classroom library for students to enjoy at center time.

Materials and Resources:

The media specialist will highlight biographies in the media center with some important historical figures and dates as examples (Abraham Lincoln, Ben Franklin). The computer teacher will instruct students on other Web sites (AVL) for help on the topics discussed. *Tell Me A Story, Mama*, by Angela Johnson.

Template for Special Needs students to complete the assignment.

Letters to parents about the projects and date projects should be turned in.

DAILY ACTIVITIES:

Monday: Teacher will read aloud *Tell Me a Story, Mama*, by Angela Johnson. ARI comprehension activities will take place before, during, and after the story.

ASSESSMENT: Students will brainstorm family members whom they would like to hear tell a story.

Tuesday: The teacher will use the story by Angela Johnson to show how it has stimulated her to think about her family. Teacher will display pictures of her family members and tell stories that she has heard about her grandparents, parents, and uncles.

ASSESSMENT: Students will choose a family member to write about and draft questions they will ask.

Wednesday: Students will be asked to recall details from the story by Angela Johnson. Teacher will direct students to the computer lab to show appropriate sources for obtaining information, *AVL* and *This Goodly Land* (www.alabamaliterarymap.org).

Students will look under Authors for link to Angela Johnson. The teacher will read aloud the information as students read along. The teacher will ask questions about the author.

Students will raise their hand to answer questions. Students will use *The Biography Maker* (<http://www.bham.wednet.edu/bio/biomak2.htm>) to guide them in editing their questions to ask family members.

Thursday: Students will use class time to conference with each other and the teacher to revise and edit their work. Students will use poster boards and items relating to their story to make creative displays.

Friday: Students will display a picture of their family member, poster and paper on a poster. Students will share orally what they have learned.