

## **OVERVIEW**

**CONTENT AREA:** Special Education- English  
[Electronic Books Overview](#)

## **MATERIALS**

Outdoor setting  
Flip Cameras or phones  
ipads or notebook  
Writing utensil  
Computer  
Google Docs: Slide

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

To ensure that my students are exposed to nature and have some fun writing creatively, I created a lesson for my students where they write and illustrate an online children's book. Last year they used Powerpoint this year they will use **Google Presentations**. This was an end of the year project, after they had many lessons on figurative language, story elements, and literary elements.

STEP 1: First I explain to my students that we will be taking a walk outside, and then I request that they sit somewhere by themselves and quietly look around. Next, they are to choose something in nature, a cloud, an ant whatever. They are to use all their senses to learn about it then journal about it.

STEP 2: They are to journal about that part of nature for 8 minutes. They can take photos or sketch pictures, whatever they want to do.

STEP 3: Next, class period I read a variety of children's books, out loud, and we discuss in class what makes them fun and interesting. We connect story elements, figurative language and literary elements to the stories. [http://literary-devices.com /Literary Devices](http://literary-devices.com/Literary_Devices)

STEP 4: Then I let them know that they will be writing a book collaboratively or independently using whatever part of nature they chose the previous class period. The catch is, some how in the story, whatever they chose, has to transform into something else. The rubrics are also passed out and reviewed.

STEP 5: The students begin prewriting by applying their brainstorming strategies.

STEP 6: The students begin their project in the computer lab. We took three weeks, but I discovered we could have used six weeks, and with Google it will be easy to expand the lesson. Next year the students will have a choice to work collaboratively and peer editing and publishing will be included. I am still a novice working in this program, but I am sure the students will educate me.

## **RESOURCES**

A variety of Children's Books and online books.

## **RUBRIC FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

Below is a rubric I think works well. However, eventually I would add the rubric to Google Forms.  
[Rubric for Children's Book](#)

### **STANDARDS**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.5

Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grades 9-10 [here](#).)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.6

Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.3.B

Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

Children's Books by Janet Hilley ([jmhillley@mcps.k12.mt.us](mailto:jmhillley@mcps.k12.mt.us)) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).