Memoir Unit Projection

Unit of Study: Memoir # weeks or month:

Primary Goals:

1. Students will draw on previously learned strategies to write with depth about their personal lives.

2. Students read texts that resemble the text they want to write.

3. Students draft and reflect about what their writing reveals about their life.

Secondary Goals:

1. Students brainstorm ideas for memoir by thinking of people, places, things, and events.

2. Students narrow in on a focus or chunk of their life.

3. Students write memoir by including character, setting, and plot.

4. Students choose a form in which to write memoir.

5. Students craft their memoir with a specific purpose in mind.

6. Students write memoir to communicate the significance of the topic-why it matters, what it means to the author.

7. Students decide how to use different kinds of time in their writing.

8. Students write memoirs with details, emotion, and honesty.

Resources/Materials/Books:

1. Calkins Book 6

2. How to Write Your Life Story-Ralph Fletcher

Projection of Possible Mini Lesson Topics:

1. Brainstorming ideas through lists of possible people, things, events, or places

2. Collecting family stories

3. Gathering artifacts from your life

4. Sketching your neighborhood

5. Creating a heart map

6. Selecting the focus, chunk, or slice of their life to narrow in on

7. Selecting a form for writing memoir

8. Crafting the story by writing “small”

9. Crafting by using invigorating verbs

10. Creating characters

11. Waking up the narrator by using point of view and voice

12. Showing through examples, telling through reflections

13. Considering time left out

14. Writing a scene showing a particular time

15. Using particular time vs. habitual time

16. Writing with details, honesty, and emotion

Other Teaching Possibilities:

1. Consider suggesting that students try out poetry as a form for writing memoir