

Severe Weather Narrative

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4th Grade
Visual Art/Writing/Science

Core Curriculum Science: Standard II

Students will understand that the elements of weather can be observed, measured, and recorded to make predictions and determine simple weather patterns.

Core Curriculum Writing: Objective 3

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

Core Curriculum Visual Art: Standard 4

The student will interpret and apply visual arts in relation to cultures, history, and all learning.

Objective 3: Recognize the connections of visual arts to all learning.

b. Explain how scientific information can be communicated by visual art.

Standard 1: The student will explore and refine the application of media, techniques, and artistic processes.

Objective 1: Explore a variety of art materials while learning new techniques and processes.

d. Use value, color, and texture to create interest.

Objective: The students will be able to describe in sequential order the events of a story having to do with severe weather. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences. Describe how weather and forecasts affect people's lives. Recognize the connections of visual arts to all learning.

Materials:

Watercolor paper, large brushes (or foam brushes, black watercolors, crayons)

Background for Teachers: Understand what is severe weather and understand wax resist paintings.

Student Prior Knowledge: Understand severe weather and structure of a paragraph.

Instructional Procedures:

Discussion:

Have the children think of a time that they were stuck in severe weather. Have them share with a neighbor or with the whole class. Brainstorm ideas for writing. They can also have the option of making up a story of experiencing severe weather.

Discuss how all good stories establish a good setting and character description. Have the students describe where and when the story takes place. Have them come up with a reason why they were at the setting in the first place (for example, why were just the child and his dad go to Little Ceasars? Why weren't his siblings there?)

Create a story outline:

Have the students use an outline (either already created or one they create themselves) to identify the problem, the events in order, and the resolution.

Create a first draft:

At this point, go through the writing process, writing the first draft of their story, revising, and editing. Get the stories ready to type.

Type the stories:

Give the students time to publish what they have written on a word processor.

Create the Artwork:

This part can be done during or after the students type their stories. Have the students draw a picture to represent their stories. Watercolor works better for this type of visual art, since the paper is less likely to curl, wrinkle, or tear.

Have the students color their pictures with crayons. I have found that that cheaper the crayons, the better the wax resist. However, any crayon will work. Let the kids know that if they want something in their picture to be the color white, they need to color it with a white crayon. Have them color everything in. If they leave any uncolored space, it will be filled in with black watercolor.

After the students have drawn and colored their pictures, have them paint over the artwork with a big paintbrush. It is important to stress that they need to color the **WHOLE** picture: all the corners and even on top of the crayon. They should be able to see the watercolor gather into “raindrops” on top of the colored picture.

Assessment Plan:

Check for understanding and execution of a narrative story and what is severe weather.

Adaptation(s):

- Ask for a multi-paragraph story. (Or less sentences for younger grades)
- The stories can be handwritten instead of typed.
- The writing project can be changed into other prompts. For example:
 - How does the weather affect people?
 - What is your favorite type of severe weather?
 - Compare/Contrast a type of severe weather with a normal storm or nice weather.

