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MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI

Proiect Erasmus+: "Terra – casă pentru toți"

Nr. referinta: 2023-1-RO01-KA122-SCH-000142760

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 6th Grade
Subject: English Language Arts
Duration: 60 minutes

Creative Writing with Story Dice

Teacher: Popescu Daniela - Mirela
Materials Needed:

- Story Dice (these can be purchased or made by creating dice with pictures or prompts on each side)
- Paper and pencils for students
- Whiteboard/marker for group brainstorming

Objectives:

1. **Students will improve their creative writing skills** by using prompts provided by the Story Dice to generate a unique narrative.
2. **Students will develop their ability to organize their thoughts** and construct a coherent story structure.
3. **Students will practice collaboration and brainstorming** through group work and sharing ideas.
4. **Students will enhance their vocabulary and descriptive writing** by incorporating specific images, objects, or scenarios from the dice prompts.

Common Core Standards:

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.3**: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.4**: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1**: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.

Lesson Structure:

1. Warm-Up (10 minutes):

- **Objective:** Engage students and get them thinking creatively.
- Begin with a **quick class discussion**: Ask the students, "What makes a good story?" Write down responses on the whiteboard (examples: characters, plot, setting, conflict, and resolution).
- Briefly explain that today's lesson will focus on using **Story Dice** to spark their creativity and develop a story.

2. Introduction to Story Dice (10 minutes):

- Show the **Story Dice** to the students. Explain that each die has different pictures or prompts (e.g., a castle, a dragon, a treasure chest, a person, a weather symbol, etc.).
- Each student or group will roll the dice to create the basic elements of their story (characters, setting, conflict, etc.).
- Demonstrate how to use the dice: Roll the dice a few times and create a quick mini-story using the images that show up.

3. Group Activity - Rolling the Dice (15 minutes):

- Divide the class into **small groups** (3-4 students each).
- Give each group a set of **Story Dice** (or have one group roll the dice at a time if you only have one set).
- **Instructions for students:**
    1. Each group will roll the dice and **write down** the elements (e.g., a spaceship, a pirate, a mountain).
    2. Based on the dice results, the group will **create a story outline** (e.g., the setting, the main character, the problem they face, and the resolution).
    3. Groups will **work together** to come up with ideas, help each other think of creative connections, and organize their story logically.
- Walk around and provide support if needed, especially with brainstorming.

4. Individual Writing Time (15 minutes):

- After each group has brainstormed their story outline, **students will write their individual stories** based on their group's dice rolls.
- Encourage them to incorporate **details and descriptions** based on the prompts given by the dice.
- While writing, students should focus on including:
  - A clear **beginning, middle, and end**.
  - Descriptive language that paints a picture for the reader.
  - Dialogue (optional) to enhance character development.
  - A conflict or problem that the characters need to solve.

5. Sharing and Peer Review (10 minutes):

- After students finish writing, they can **share their stories** with a partner or small group.
- **Peer Review:** Ask students to give constructive feedback to each other, focusing on:
  - What they liked about the story.
  - Suggestions for improving it (e.g., more descriptive words, adding more conflict, etc.).

6. Wrap-Up and Reflection (5 minutes):

- Bring the class back together and have a **class discussion** about the activity:
  - What was fun about using Story Dice to create a story?
  - How did the dice influence your creativity and the direction of your story?
  - What challenges did you face while writing and how did you overcome them?
- Conclude by highlighting the importance of imagination and creativity in storytelling, and how the dice helped guide their ideas.

Assessment:

- **Formative Assessment:** Observe student participation during the group brainstorming and writing activities. Provide feedback during the peer review process.
- **Summative Assessment:** Assess students' final written stories for:
  - Story structure (beginning, middle, end).
  - Creativity and detail in the writing.
  - Use of the dice prompts and how effectively they were incorporated into the story.

Extensions (Optional):

1. **Story Dice Challenge:** For homework, challenge students to roll the dice at home and write a second, shorter story on their own.

2. **Story Dice Art:** Have students draw scenes from their stories and add illustrations to accompany their writing.

Reflection:

- This activity allows students to practice their creative writing in an engaging and non-threatening way. By using Story Dice, they can feel less restricted by a blank page and more motivated to explore new and unexpected ideas. It also fosters collaboration and communication skills in a fun, low-pressure setting.