

Does a Rookie Ever Win?

Developed by: Jen Reiter, 2014 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail, Created February 2017

Discipline / Subject: Reading/ Language Arts

Topic: Opinion Writing

Grade Level: 3-6, others with modification

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

- Stubborn Gal: The True Story of an Undeclared Sled Dog Racer by Dan O'Neill
- Iditarod Media Guide: <http://iditarod.com/resources/press-media/> (specifically the sections listing the yearly results and the page discussing the Rookie of the Year Award)
- Dallas Seavey Wins Rookie Quest: NOTE – PLEASE Preview before sharing with your class
<https://www.adn.com/sports/article/rookie-dallas-seavey-wins-yukon-quest/2011/02/16/>
http://www.thearcticsouder.com/article/1109dallas_seavey_-_and_weather_-_victors_in
http://www.newsminer.com/sports/yukon_quest/rookie-mushing-progeny-dallas-seavey-wins-yukon-quest/article_d02fa6de-1569-5d3b-bbe7-45e80e1e540d.html
- OREO organizer sheet from Annie Kelley: <http://iditarod.com/edu/iditarod-sportsmanship/> OR included

Lesson Summary:

Students will explore a text set to help develop an opinion on the question, “Could a rookie musher win the Iditarod?” They will then draft an opinionwriting piece that supports their opinion.

Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.A

Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.B

Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.C

Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., for instance, in order to, in addition).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1.D

Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

Learning Objectives:

TLW analyze a text set to develop and help support an opinion on a given topic.

TLW draft a piece of writing which clearly states and supports their opinion on a topic

Assessment:

Students will be assessed on their final piece of writing.

Procedural Activities

1. Use a tool like Kahoot to create a survey. Ask the students if they feel a rookie could win the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Or, go low tech and just do a show of hands. Record their responses to revisit later.
2. Lead a discussion about the reasons why the students had the opinion that had.
3. Share the book Stubborn Gal: The True Story of an Undefeated Sled Dog Racer with the students. This is the true story of a woman who won a race in her rookie year.
4. After reading the book, ask the students if they think a rookie EVER won the Iditarod? Of course they did – what about the first year? Share with the students the selected pages from the Media Guide. In examining these sources, the students should be able to identify that a rookie did win the race a few times in the early years and that the coveted prize for rookies at this point is the Rookie of the Year Award.
5. Introduce the concept of the Rookie of the Year award as a way to recognize the achievements of the top rookie each year. If time allows, you may want to share the story of Nathan Schroeder’s Rookie of the Year win in 2014: <https://itcteacheronthetrail.com/2014/03/12/catching-up-with-nathan/>
6. Provide the students with the remaining articles from the text set. These articles introduce the idea that Dallas Seavey won the Yukon Quest in his rookie run in 2011.
7. Distribute the OREO organizer to the students and review the directions. The students will use the organizer to gather their thoughts about the big question: Could a rookie musher win the contemporary Iditarod race?
8. Once the organizer is complete, students will draft an opinion piece of writing supporting their belief.
9. When everyone has completed the assignment, revisit the survey to see how many opinions changed based on the gathered information.

Materials Students Need:

- Organizer sheet
- Lined paper for writing
- Device of choice for survey

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:

Survey could be completed via <https://getkahoot.com/>

Other Information:

Sled Dog Chocolate Covered Oreos available here: <https://www.zazzle.com/sled+dog+cookies>

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

Non-writes could record an oral opinion piece via Recap <https://letsrecap.com/>

Additional Information

Name: _____ Date: _____

Oreo Writing Organizer

One Big Question: _____

 <p>Opinion</p>			
 <p>Reasons</p>			
 <p>Examples</p>			
 <p>Restate Opinion</p>			

