

# Creative Writing and Shadow Puppets

**Developed by:**

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**Discipline / Subject:**

ELA

**Topic:**

Narrative writing

**Grade Level:**

Elementary can be modified for any grade level

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:**

- A variety of Iditarod/ Alaska themed literature and access to Iditarod.com
- Narrative writing assignment sheet
- Narrative planning graphic organizers
- Popsicle sticks
- Tracing paper/ thin sheet or paper to use as a screen (I used four pieces of tracing paper taped together and attached it to a table in the classroom)
- Black construction paper
- High powered flashlight
- A platform to digitally share performances (Seesaw etc...)

**Lesson Summary:**

Students will write a narrative story either from a dog or mushers point of view about preparing for or being out on the Iditarod Trail. Using shadow puppets the students will preform their story for an audience and share on a digital platform.

**Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)**

- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.3**  
Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.5**  
With guidance and support from adults and peers, focus on a topic and strengthen writing as needed by revising and editing.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.6**  
With guidance and support from adults, use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.
- **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.5**  
Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

**Learning Objectives:**

**Students will:**

- Write a narrative story based on the Iditarod.
- Revise and edit their writing.
- Share their writing to an audience.
- Work in a team

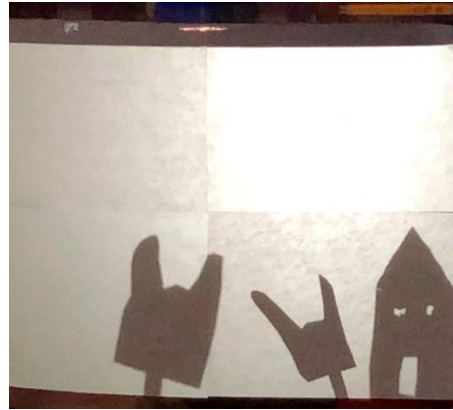
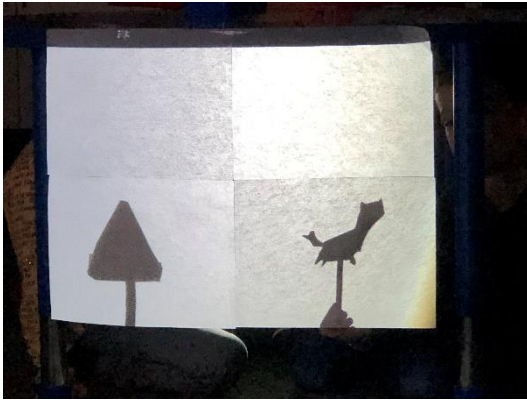
**Assessment:**

- Completed narrative story.
- Shadow puppet performance and sharing on Seesaw

**Procedural Activities**

1. Prior to writing students will have spent time reading nonfiction and fiction texts based on Alaska and the Iditarod, as well as spent time exploring Iditarod.com
2. Introduce narrative writing assignment. Working in small groups (2-3 students) the students will be writing a narrative story, from the point of view of a dog or musher, either preparing to head out on the trail or out on the trail.
3. Introduce the graphic organizer needed for planning for their writing. (When planning, I have the students limit the characters involved. Too many characters are hard to handle during the presentation, and to develop for the younger writers).

4. Once the students plan, they will work together to write their narrative story.
5. After stories have gone through the editing and revision process, students then begin to create the puppets they will need in order to preform their story. For shadow puppets they will only need black construction paper and popsicle sticks, as the puppets will only show black behind the screen.



6. Have the students preform and share their stories. Record the performances and have the students share their stories on a digital platform. (I use Seesaw as a way for my students to share their work with each other and their families)

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

- Iditarod.com
- Seesaw or another digital platform.

**Other Information:**

This lesson will take several days to complete.

**Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities:**

**Modifications:**

- Provide story starters

**Enrichment:**

- Turn narratives into a script and preform their stories in front of a green screen. Record and edit performance to share.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Iditarod Narrative writing with Shadow Puppets

Assignment: In a small group, you will be planning, writing, and performing a short narrative story using shadow puppets.

### Characters and Setting

Your story will be in the viewpoint of either a sled dog or a musher. Your story will take place either before the Iditarod begins or while you are out on the trail.

### Steps to complete the assignment:

1. Plan
2. Draft
3. Revise and Edit
4. Final draft
5. Create shadow puppets
6. PRACTICE
7. Perform
8. HAVE FUN!!!!



## Planner

Characters	Step 2
Setting	Step 3
Problem	Solution
Step 1	Ending



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Narrative Writing

Title \_\_\_\_\_

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