

Writer's Notebook Introduction

Theme: The Greatest Showman

Invitation: Flyer to students (view below)

Hook: "This is Me" song with lyrics for students (link provided below)

What & Why:

A writer's notebook is a place to record ideas, observations, memories, events, reactions, experiences, words, etc. It is a place where anyone can write anything that they want. They can write about things they love, hate, or feel about their surroundings such as the people, objects, places, or animals. It is a place to reflect on oneself or their environment. A place to write down all the wonders and questions that one has. A writer's notebook is a place where you don't have to hide your true self. Instead, it's where you find your true self and explore it. A writer's notebook is a place created by oneself in order to think and live like a writer.

Students should engage in it because it validates personal experiences and feelings, in which is a very important aspect for students whose experiences and feelings aren't validated on a daily basis. Not only that, but a writer's notebook promotes fluency in writing, visible thinking, and development of the written language conventions for students. It provides an opportunity for students to observe, explore, discover, and reflect, which are also important aspects of growing as a learner. Students should engage in a writer's notebook because it provides an opportunity for students to become writers or realize that they're writers, and find significance in their own experiences and writing.

How:

The notebooks will be wrapped in brown paper as presents with a note attached saying "A world of possibilities awaits... *This is You!*" (See below)

First teacher will seek out potential writers by sending and posting out the flyers created. Then on the day of the event, the teacher will decorate the room appropriately to create a writing stage for students to "audition". The teacher will invite students to come up to the board to write one word that describes who they are. The trick is only ONE word can be written on the board ONCE. After all students have done so, the teacher will then play the song "This is Me" in the greatest showman to students (the one with lyrics included).

After watching the video, the teacher will pass out the lyrics to students and have them highlight words that described the characters in the lyrics, and words that were powerful or meaningful to students. Then the teacher will ask the students to come back up to the board and write one word that the song made them feel. What emotions did they feel during the video? How did the characters help form this song to come alive? How did the words/lyrics made them feel reading it and listening to it? Discussion of the lyrics and scene is encouraged

after students have written their new word on the board. Teacher will lead discussion of the song, characters, and movie/scene.

The Why:

The goal of this launching activity is to not only encourage students to write, but to let them know that their voices matter and that they have power. In the Greatest Showman, the characters who sang the song, "This is Me" were all different and unique people. They didn't have confidence in themselves nor did other people around them. Their voices and stories were not heard nor validated, and so when they sang this song, you could feel the courage slowly uplifting as they finally admit and said, "Hey, this is who I am and I am proud of me". The same way they bloomed from their differences, I want my students to also flourish from their own differences in writing, thinking and personality. I want students to find their courage and to find their voice in their writing. I want students to see that their differences is what makes them unique and that they each have stories to tell. This is validating their voices, and this is me, as their teacher, telling and encouraging them that I want to hear their stories and voices. I hope that students will find the courage and inspiration to WRITE the words of their heart.

Resources:

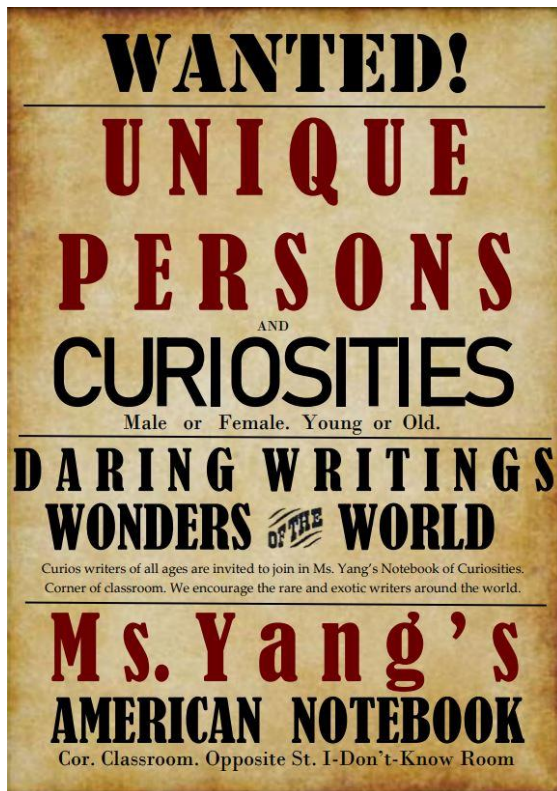
Notebook example:



Video link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjxugyZCfuw&ab_channel=AtlanticRecords

Invitation Preview



Potential Discussion Questions:

- How did the characters feel at the beginning of the song compared to at the end of the song?
- Why do you think the differences of each characters in that scene was important? How did they help the lyrics/words?
- Do you think it would have been as powerful if you only listened to the song and not have watched the scene and seen the lyrics? Why?
- What made the lyrics powerful if they were?
- What emotions did you feel during the song?
- How did they use words to tell their story?
- How did their words change others, or made an impact on others? Did it made an impact or change?