

THE CASE OF THE HOT DOGS

Developed by: *Jen Reiter, 2014 ExxonMobil Teacher on the Trail™*

Discipline / Subject: Creative Writing

Topic: Writing from a point of view

Grade Level: 2-12

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

January 1981 Iditarod Runner and February 1981 Iditarod Runner available online here:

<http://iditarod.com/teacher/iditarod-runner-and-race-guide-publications/>

Additional background information for teachers can be found in chapter 30 of Champion of Alaskan Huskies by Katie Mangelsdorf

Lesson Summary:

The students will write a story from the point of view of a dog was stolen prior to participating in Ronald Regan's Inaugural Parade.

Standard's Addressed: (Local, State, or National)

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3a Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3b Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3c Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3.3d Provide a sense of closure.

Learning Objectives:

The learner will tell a story from the point of view of the victim of a crime in order to fill in missing details.

Assessment:

Learners can be assessed on their completed stories. Here is a rubric from Read, Write, Think:
http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson865/rubric.pdf

Procedural Activities

1. As a way to grab the students' attention, share with them the news flash from the January 1981 Iditarod. To ensure a sense of urgency, omit the details of how the story finishes: "Newsflash: Three dogs destined for the Inaugural Parade were stolen from the Maryland Farm where they were staying. Joe Redington Sr.'s lead dog Feets and his faithful Candy who made it to the top of Mt. McKinley are two of the missing. Norman Vaughan's leader was also stolen. The theft occurred around midnight on January 18."
2. Give the students a copy of the article "The Case of the Hot Dogs" from the February 1981 Iditarod Runner. Challenge them to complete the Detective Case Report Graphic Organizer from the information gathered in the article. (Suggested answers attached) They may also find the article "Mushing to DC" in the same newsletter helpful,
3. Have the students reconvene to discuss their findings. What questions do they still have after reading and analyzing the article? If they don't come up with some themselves, steer them toward the questions like:
 - What exactly happened to the dogs?
 - What does the author mean by the dogs "apparently succumbed silently to two youths who have been charged with the theft?"
4. Challenge the students to write "the rest of the story" from the point of view of one of the dogs. How did the boys lure the dogs away? What did the dogs do in the basement? Why didn't they resist the boys?
5. Before they begin, they should flesh out the Detective Case Report in order to use it as a graphic organizer for their story. Who are the youths? What do they look like? What are their names? What will the steps be that lead the dogs to leave with the youths?

Materials Students Needed:

Detective Case Report Graphic Organizer: included

Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**Other Information:**

As an alternative assignment, students could write the story as a traditional mystery story and take the newspaper article out of a "reporter's voice" and into a "storyteller's voice."

Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities

Students could work with partners or the whole class to analyze the story to complete the graphic organizer.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Case of the Hot Dogs Detective Case Report

Characters	Who are the Victims?	Who are the Detectives?	Who are the Suspects?
Setting	Where did the crime occur?	Why were the victims in this location?	
Key Plot Points	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
Conclusion	How did the mystery conclude?	Why did the criminals commit the crime?	What evidence helped solve the mystery?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Case of the Hot Dogs Detective Case Report

Characters	Who are the Victims? Joe Redington Sr.'s lead dogs Feets and Candy Norman Vaughan's lead dog Joey	Who are the Detectives? The Montgomery County Police	Who are the Suspects? Two youths
Setting	Where did the crime occur? Damascus, Maryland (Montgomery County, Maryland – just outside of Washington, DC)	Why were the victims in this location? They were there to participate in Ronald Regan's Inaugural Parade	
Key Plot Points	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
Conclusion	How did the mystery conclude? The dogs were found in the basement of a house in Gaithersburg.	Why did the criminals commit the crime?	What evidence helped solve the mystery? A telephone tip