



Calendar Page-PET ON A PORCH

This fantasy prompt goes great with an old calendar picture of a cat or a dog since they're such common pets and could realistically be sitting on a porch.

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the story line to your writers: "A friend says something that hurts the main character. The main character walks home sad. He/she suddenly hears a cat or dog speak from a porch. The animal invites the character inside. The seemingly normal house turns out to be a wonderland. While in the house, other animals speak and the character learns a lesson. The story concludes with the dog/cat offering to walk the character home. The character has a change of heart and attitude.
2. Brainstorm ideas. Write responses on the board.
3. Show the 5 sections on the board:
 - a. Conversation and feelings.
 - b. Pet speaks. Entering the house.
 - c. Describe the house.
 - d. Animals' words and actions.
 - e. Character's change of heart. Final thoughts.

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps. They are free to use their own words. Remind them that ANYTHING can happen in their story as long as they follow the steps to keep their story organized.

4. Begin the story with a quotation. A friend says something hurtful. Write what the friend says in one, at most, two sentences. Use another word instead of said and name the friend. For example: *"I didn't know you wanted to go with us," Sally admitted.*
5. Name the main character and one sentence about starting back home. For example, *Tony left to walk home.*
6. Describe the characters actions that SHOW she/he is sad. 1-3 sentences. For example, *His head was down. His hands were in his pockets and he kicked rocks every other step.*
7. Quote what the dog/cat says while sitting on the porch. For example, *"Don't be so sad," a voice came from the neighbor's porch.*
8. Continue the story showing the character's next actions that lead him/her to enter the house.
9. Describe the fantastical house in detail.
10. Write what the animal characters inside say or do to help the main character feel better.
11. Write about the character's change of mind and heart.
12. Finish the story with a quote from the original dog/cat. For example, *"Let me walk you back home," _____ encouraged.*
13. Write any final thoughts for the future that the character has.