



GNOME IN A PUMPKIN PATCH

This lesson is great for the fall. I give a very general start to the story and the kids run with it!

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.K.3, W.1.3, W.2.3, W.3.3, W.3.3.B, W.3.3.C, W.3.3.D, W.4.3, W.4.3.A, W.4.3.B, W.4.3.C, W.4.3.D, W.4.3.E, W.5.3, W.5.3.A, W.5.3.B, W.5.3.C, W.5.3.D and W.5.3.E.

Here's the lesson:

1. Tell the story line. *"A gnome lives in a pumpkin patch and is in charge of taking care of the pumpkins through the night. The gnome experiences an unusual event in the pumpkin patch. It can be a problematic event or a fun silly event."*
2. To get the kids thinking, have them imagine the gnome in the pumpkin patch at night. Have them brainstorm unusual things that might occur. Here are just a few examples:
 - there's a crow attack
 - the pumpkins come alive and have a huge party for fun
 - the pumpkins turn mean
 - the pumpkins argue and battle each other
3. Think of ways the problem is solved or the fun ends.
4. Think of a name for the gnome.
5. Show the 5 sections of the story:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. The gnome's routine actions
 - c. Problem
 - d. Problem gets worse
 - e. Problem is solved

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,
2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps so their story is organized and complete. They are free to write these ideas in their own words. Remind them that ANYTHING can happen in their story.

6. Start the story with the gnome saying something routine to the pumpkins or a loud sound that the gnome hears.
7. Now to back up. Introduce the gnome. State his/her name. Describe his/her personality. State his/her duties for the pumpkin patch.
8. Describe the gnome completing his/her daily tasks in detail.
9. Describe the problem. Writers can begin with a phrase like, *All of a sudden,*
10. Explain how the problem gets worse and seems to have no solution. *Then,*
11. Write about the moment of relief and ending to the story, *Out of the blue,* or *Thankfully,*...