



BIRTHDAY BASH Science Fiction

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.A, 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, W.5.3.E, L.K.2, L.1.2, L.2.2, L.3.2, L.3.2.C, L.4.2, L.4.2.B and L.5.2.

This is a great lesson for practicing dialogue and writing Science Fiction. This particular lesson focuses on time travel.

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the story line to your writers: "You are at a birthday party. All of a sudden a balloon pops. When it pops everyone at the party time travels. You have to figure out a way to get back."
2. Brainstorm times and places. Here are a few to get you started.
 - Ancient Egypt
 - Dinosaur times
 - 1849 Gold Rush
 - Biblical Times
 - Year 3,000 on Mars
3. Brainstorm ways to get back. Examples include:
 - A balloon travels with them and pops
 - The characters discover a code
 - The characters find a secret hole/door/passageway
4. Show the 5 sections on the board:
 - a. Dialogue
 - b. Introduce the characters
 - c. All of a sudden,
 - d. Reaction/Action
 - e. Solution/Conclusion

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. 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. *There is a K-1st example in italics for your own guidance.*

1. Begin the story with a conversation:

"Time for cake!" Max shouted.

NOTE: If you want your student(s) to practice punctuating dialogue, start off slow. Verbalize the following steps for your writers:

- a. Write the opening quotation marks.
- b. Write what the character is saying. Begin the sentence with a capital letter.
- c. Finish the sentences with a ?, ! or comma.
- d. Write the closing quotation marks.
- e. Write who said it.

2. Name the main character and write about the birthday.

It was Max's 6th birthday. His house was full of people.

3. Write about how the balloon popped and the time travel.

Suddenly, a balloon popped. Everyone was on Mars.

4. Write about everyone's reactions and actions.

Max's friends were shocked.

NOTE: If you are working with older students, this is a good time to encourage them to SHOW the reactions and feelings by describing in detail the character's actions.

For example, if a character is shocked, a student can write:

Max froze. He didn't say anything. His eyes were wide open.

5. Write about how the problem was solved and any thoughts for the future.

A balloon flew by and popped. Everyone was back home.