



Snow, Cows and a Barn 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 addressing farm life, practicing dialogue and writing Science Fiction.

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the story line to your writers: "It's a snowy day. There's a problem on the farm. The cows develop and use a super power to solve the problem."
2. Brainstorm farm problems. Examples include:
 - Too much snow/no grass
 - Barn Collapses
 - Thieves/Hunters
 - Illness/Starvation
 - Bobcat/Snakes
 - Dairy cows are tired of being milked
3. Brainstorm cow super powers. Here are a few to get you started.
 - A cow's spots turn sunshine/blinding yellow
 - A cow's spots turn hot and melt the snow
 - The cows can shoot corn/kernels
 - The cows can shoot warm water to melt the snow or scald thieves
 - The cows can fly
 - The cows can turn all the corn to popcorn
4. Show the 5 sections on the board:
 - a. Dialogue
 - b. Introduce the characters/problem
 - c. All of a sudden, (discover a super power)
 - d. Action/Reaction
 - 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 simple K-1st example in italics for your own guidance.*



1. Begin the story with a conversation:

"I'm stuck!" one cow said.

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. Second, introduce the characters and describe the problem.

It snowed all night. The cows were outside.

3. Write about a cow, or the cows, suddenly having a super power.

WOOSH! All of a sudden, one cow had yellow spots. They were hot.

4. Write about what the other characters did or said, or what happened next.

The spots melted the snow.

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 brave, a student can write:

The cow didn't hesitate. He confronted the puma. He pointed his bright blazing spots at the puma until the puma couldn't stand it anymore and ran away.

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

The cow that was stuck got back to the barn.