



LEVEL: Middle School

LESSON: Narrative Writing

**Objectives:**

After teaching parts of plot to the class, students will write a narrative essay that portrays a child who experiences hunger.

**Materials Needed:** pencils, paper, dictionaries, thesauri

**Time Needed:** at least two one-hour class periods

**Activities:**

1. Read "What Do Fish Have to Do with Anything?" by Avi.
2. Have a class discussion about how they would have responded to the homeless man who was in need of food.
3. Discuss the plot of the story using a plot diagram.
4. Tell students they are going to use the elements of plot to write a realistic fictional story taking on the role of a child who experiences hunger. Review the elements of plot with the class.
5. Give students a plot diagram.  
[http://www.beaconlearningcenter.com/documents/2658\\_01.pdf](http://www.beaconlearningcenter.com/documents/2658_01.pdf)
6. Have them complete the plot diagram as a prewriting activity for this assignment. Tell students they are supposed to choose a fictional character but that the plot should be realistic. Also discuss the point of view that should be used since they are actually becoming the child as they write their narrative (first person).
7. Walk around the room and assist students as they write their stories.
8. Assist students in proofreading and revising.
9. Assist students as they write their final drafts that will be displayed on a bulletin board.
10. Encourage the use of their writing rubric to self-assess before final publications. See attachment.

**Sources Used:**

Avi. (2005). What do fish have to do with anything? In L. Mongello (Ed.), *Elements of Literature* (pp. 557-565). Texas: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

(2003). Plot Diagram. Retrieved July 22, 2008, from BeaconLearningCenter

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