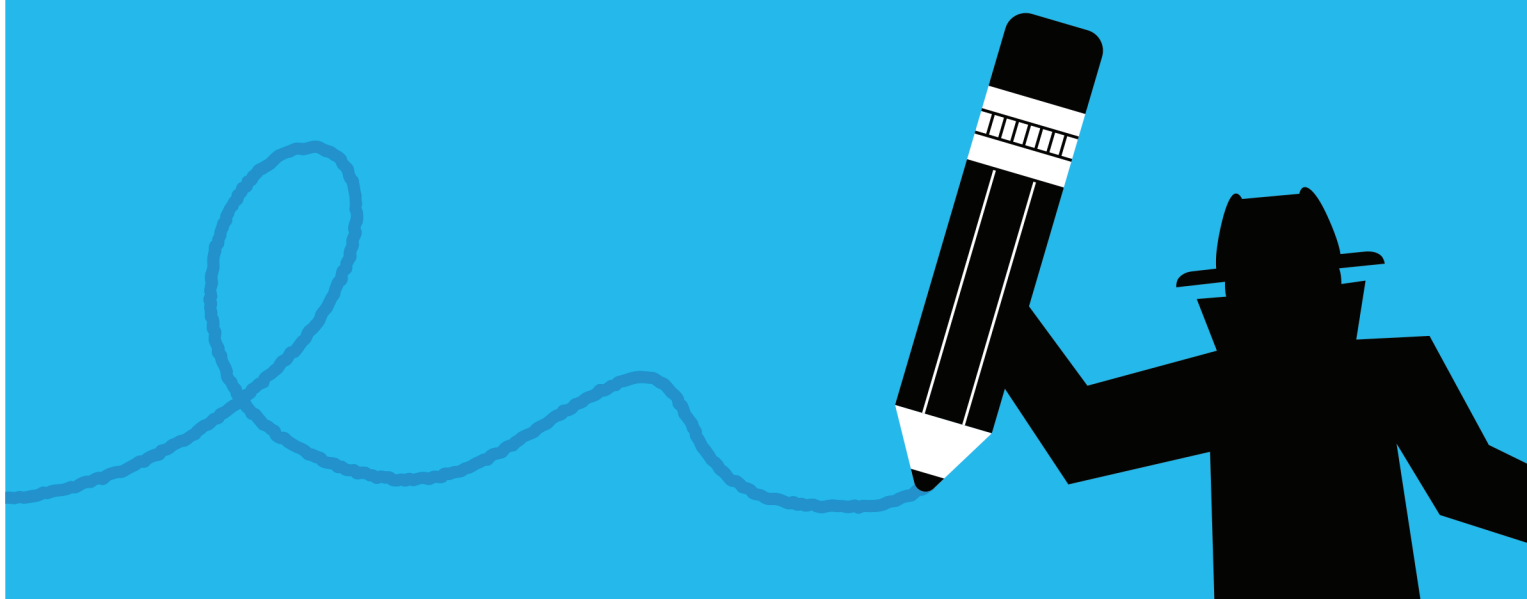


# STUART GIBBS

## MISSION: Write

### Lesson Plans and Activities



TOP  
SECRET

## Dear Educators,

If you work with middle grade readers, you probably know the works of author Stuart Gibbs. Between the FunJungle series, the Spy School series, Moon Base Alpha series, *Charlie Thorne* books and *Once Upon a Tim*, Stuart's books are beloved by all readers! Besides being kid favorites, his novels also regularly appear on state reading lists selected by teachers and librarians across the country.

Stuart loves connecting with his young readers and getting them excited about reading AND writing is at the heart of Stuart's work. With this mission in mind, we developed Stuart Gibbs: Mission Write. The goal is to help students see themselves as writers and build genuine excitement for the writing process. In addition to these lesson plans, we have created FUN and instructional videos that can be used as a classroom tool with a class activation attached to each unit. The content can be used as a whole unit of study or for just a single lesson.

We recognize that teaching and engaging in writing with young people requires a layered approach. These videos and the corresponding activities can serve as either an introductory lesson or they can be imbedded into your larger unit. No matter how you use them, we hope you and your students will find them useful, engaging, and downright fun.

We know behind every great writer, there is a teacher that helped show them the way. Thanks for sharing stories and guiding the creation of new ones.

Lesson plans and activities were created by Dr. Rose Brock, an associate professor at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Brock holds a PhD. in library science, specializing in children's and young adult literature.

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## Instructions for Teachers:

Author Stuart Gibbs knows how important details are. They help to create the structure of the scene and keep the reader engaged in the story. Talk about the importance of language and focus on the first few lines and the ending paragraphs to show how small things make a big difference.

## Setting up the lesson:

Read an opening to any of your favorite Stuart Gibbs's books (or any of your favorite books.) Once done, remind young writers that a strong opening is essential—it's the reader's introduction to their story, where they will reveal their characters, introduce the setting, and the place where the stories plot will be set forth. All the pieces have to come together for their story to work.

## Activity:

It's time to write! Before drafting their opening scene, have students brainstorm ideas to determine how they want to structure the following:

- The Story:
  - What is the main character's goal in this scene?
  - Who or what is stopping them from achieving their goal?
- More Details:
  - Where is the scene? What are some important details of the setting that stand out? Who else is there?
  - What was the main character doing right before the scene starts?
  - What big things will happen in this scene?
- Where to begin:
  - Some of the best stories start right in the middle of the action. What's the most exciting moment to start this scene?
  - What are some opening dialog ideas? What action could you start on?

After your young writers have a plan, let the scene writing begin! Once students have had a chance to compose their opening scenes, allow volunteers to share their efforts.

