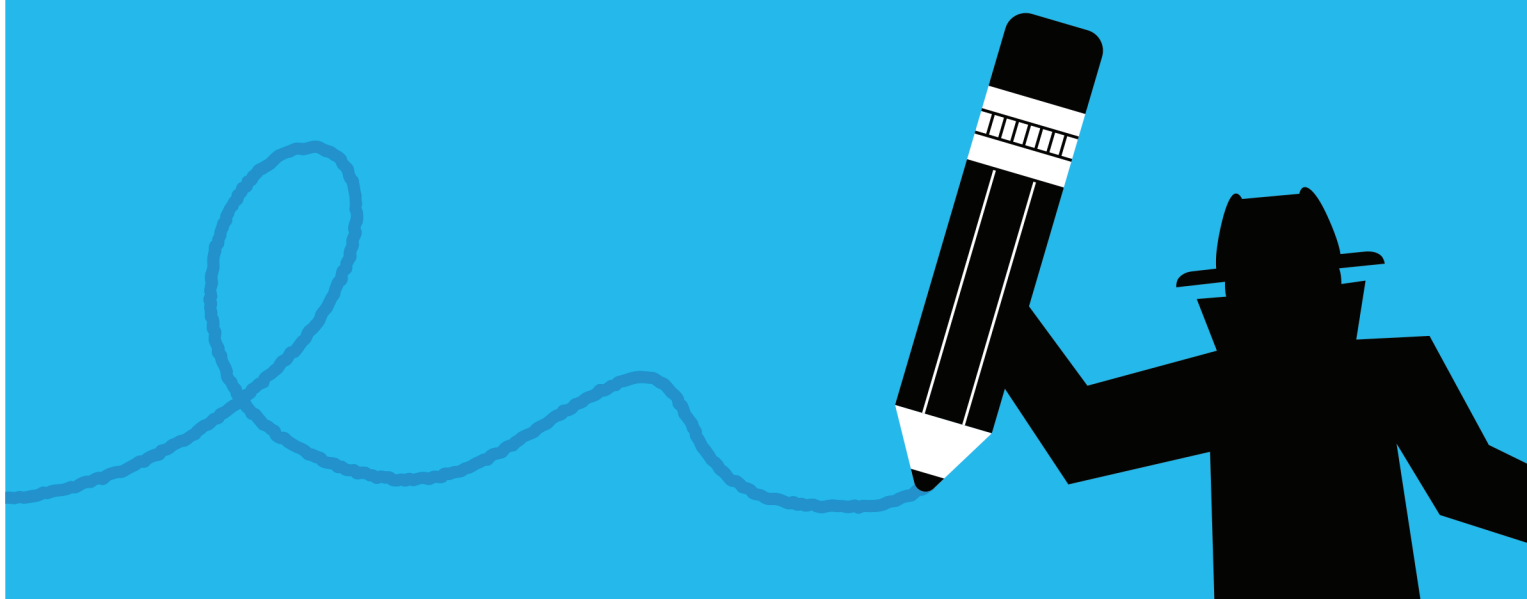


STUART GIBBS

MISSION: Write

Lesson Plans and Activities



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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:

Even characters that attend schools for spies, live on the moon, or in an animal focused amusement park should feel real to readers. Stuart Gibbs understands that his books must feature characters that look and sound authentic.

Setting up the lesson:

Begin by asking students, “Who are your favorite characters from stories and why?”

As a whole class activity, share the following questions as a starting point for them to allow their imaginations to flow as they begin to plan to create their characters. [Note these are examples and should be used to keep students thinking about all facets of their character.]

- What is your character’s name?
- How old are they? When is their birthday?
- Are they fun to be around or are they grumpy?
- What’s the best thing that’s happened to them so far in life?
- What’s the worst thing?
- What is their family like? What do their parents do for work? Do they have siblings?
- Where does your character live?
- Do they have pets?
- What do they like to do in their spare time?
- What are their favorite foods?
- What kinds of things do they like to wear?
- Where do they go to school?
- What are their friends like?
- What are their hobbies?
- What are they most embarrassed by?

After reviewing this list together, distribute the character development chart to allow your young writers to further explore their characters.

Activity:

Use the following character development chart with students to help your young writers discover their characters, activate their imagination, and begin their own writing process.

After allowing students time to really begin to outline their characters, offer them an opportunity to share their ideas for a character they created with either a class writing buddy or the entire class.

My Story's Working Title

Possible Character Names

Main Character

Secondary/Supporting Characters

Protagonist/Supporter

Antagonist/Supporter

Main Character: Physical appearance (Gender, age, body type, hair, eyes, facial features, dress, posture, movements, mannerisms, speech, first impression)

Main Character: Background that may influence motivations (Education, religion, family, early childhood experiences, financial situation, profession, marital status, other relationships, habits, surroundings/environment, health)

Main Character: Personality
(Distinctive traits, self-image, sense of humor, hopes, fears)

Other details (What is this character into (hobbies), skills, favorite foods, favorite colors, favorite books, etc.)

Story relevance

Positive traits (character strengths):

Negative traits (character flaws):

How are these characteristics relevant to the story?

What complications arise from this character?

Comments/notes:

