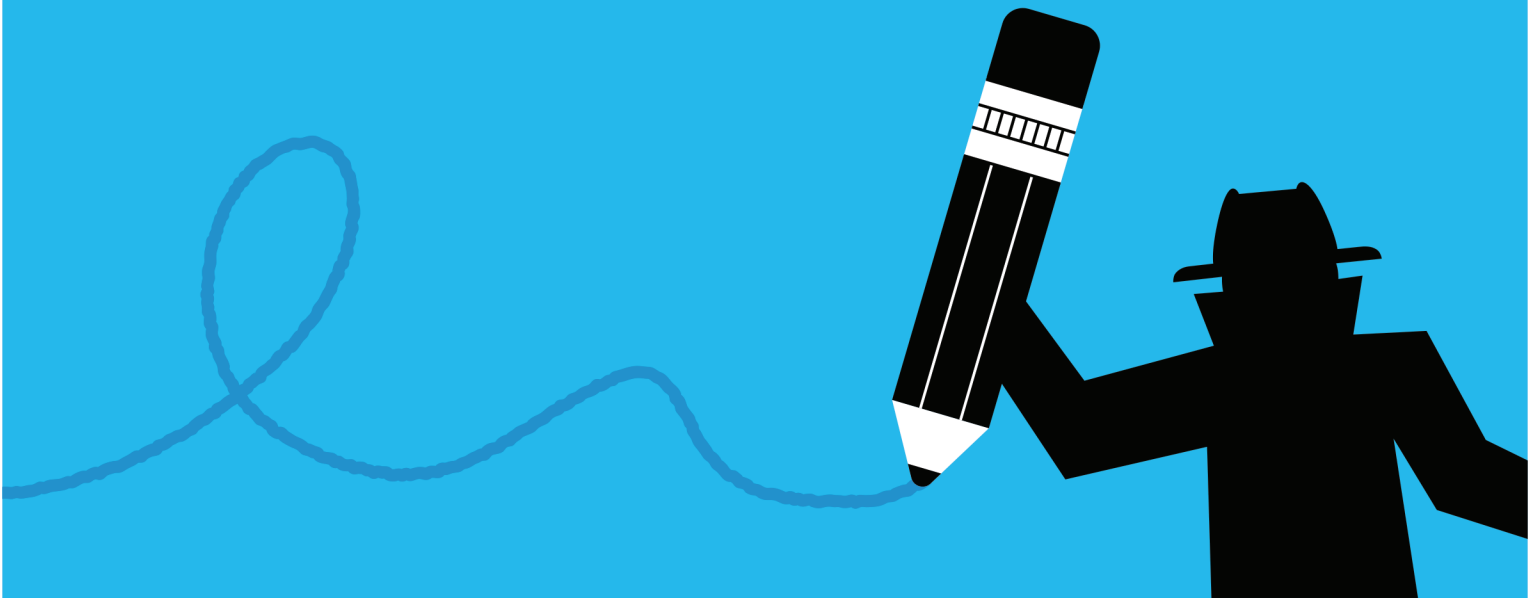


STUART GIBBS

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:

Whether his characters are attending spy school, living on the moon, traveling across the globe in a race to save it from destruction by some really, *really* bad guys, or spending days solving mysteries at the world's first zoo/amusement park, Stuart Gibbs begins his writing with searching for ideas. Ideas are everywhere!

Setting up the lesson:

Begin by asking students, "Where do you think authors get their ideas?" Lead a whole class discussion allowing them to share their responses.

Activity:

There is nothing more fun than covering the classroom with sticky notes as a means of brainstorming! For author Stuart Gibbs, figuring out the details of his stories is an essential part of his process. Determining who will star in his story, what his characters need, and what will happen to them are just some of the questions he gets to decide.

Begin by introducing the concept of **SWBST (Somebody/Wanted/But/So/Then)** to the class. While SWBST work can be used to summarize work, it can also be utilized as a brainstorming strategy to build a story shell. Using either an already familiar Stuart Gibbs novel or even a traditional well known fairy tale, work together with students to break down the SWBST of a sample story.

S (Who is going to be main character/protagonist?)

W (What does the character want or what is the character's goal?)

B (Was the problem in the story or what is keeping the character from their goal?)

S (How might the character try to solve the problem? How do they reach their goal?)

T (What's the resolution to the story? How does the story end?)

Now it's time for students to start the brainstorming process themselves.

- Have students begin with a stack of sticky notes.
- At the top of a sticky, have them write a single letter (S, W, B, S, T) for each letter of SWBST and repeat this multiple times and sort the almost empty sticky notes.
- Next, students begin with their "S" pile and work out some possible "Somebody" for their story (remind them that "somebody" is their story's protagonist or main character (for Stuart Gibbs's stories, it's Charlie, Teddy, Ben, Dash, and Tim).
- After all the "S" sticky notes are completed, have students place them on the classroom walls and return to their desks.
- Next, repeat this process but move on to focus on the concept of "Wanted" (what a character wants). Have students work their way through all of the SWBST letters.
- After the letters have all been posted to the classroom wall, have students do a story stroll and shop, where they work their way around the classroom and select a sticky note idea from each category.

When students return to their desks with their selected sticky notes, remind them that, like the process shared by Stuart Gibbs, brainstorming is where stories begin!

