

## Children's Book Writing Assignment

The following assignment is an excellent review or reinforcement activity, and can be adapted to any novel, historical figure or historical event. Nearly any elementary picture book can provide a good model for a novel. *Trombone Shorty*, by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews (Abrams Books for Young Readers) is an excellent model for a biography. *A Storm Called Katrina*, by Myron Uhlberg (Peachtree) is an excellent model for an historical event. Simply adjust the requirements of the assignment to encompass what would be needed for a biography or an historical event.

It is important that this is a group project, because the students naturally discuss, review, prioritize, and assess all of the important facts and details of their topic as they are forced to narrow it down to 10 sentences. As you walk among the groups you should hear them debating among members which details must be included, excluded, or combined to cover essential information. If group grades are a problem, at least have them work in groups to develop the 10 sentences, then work individually to create a final product, with license to edit the 10 sentences.

My students usually needed two class periods to do the sentences; they did the illustrating outside of class. One member of the group read the book to the rest of the class. When I graded the books I made all comments on the one-page, text-only sheet so I wasn't writing in their books.

### THE SCARLET LETTER

### GROUP PROJECT

DIRECTIONS: YOU ARE TO WRITE A **CHILDREN'S VERSION OF THE SCARLET LETTER** (elementary)

-The story must be **EXACTLY 10 SENTENCES LONG**, still covering the entire novel, including the **MORAL** of the story and other essential story elements (setting, plot, conflict, climax, resolution, )

-EACH SENTENCE SHOULD BE ON A SEPARATE PAGE, **ILLUSTRATED IN COLOR** (CLIP ART, ORIGINAL DRAWINGS, COMPUTER-GENERATED ART—**WHATEVER**—but keep it consistent; don't mix and match)

-BOOKS SHOULD BE BOUND (STAPLED) WITH A **DELIGHTFUL COVER** LISTING THE AUTHORS

-SUBMIT ONE PAGE WITH THE TEXT OF THE BOOK FOR TEACHER COMMENTS

YOUR "BOOKS" WILL BE GRADED ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING:

ACCURACY (OF THE SUMMARY)	<b>/30</b>		
ILLUSTRATIONS	<b>/20</b>	TOTAL	<b>/50</b>