

Sample Writing Assignments: Week 2 of Year 2

Note: In Week 20 (below) Levels 3, 6 and 9 are all learning playwriting. A teaching parent needs only prepare for once for that genre in order to teach (albeit with varying levels of complexity, to be sure!) to 3 children. Levels 2, 4, 11 and 12 are all writing creative fiction of various sorts. Levels 5, 7, and 10 are all doing more fact-based writing. All levels have suggested assignments that relate to their study for **Week 20: Early colonies in America: Jamestown**.

Level	Genre (from S & S Chart)	Suggested Assignments* ¹
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Putting sentences together using Cluster and Describe methods. <input type="checkbox"/> Begin "Colonial America" book	<p>This week, you're going to begin to make a book! It will be called your "Colonial America" book. As we study the early American colonies, you'll have assignments that will ask you to choose or draw pictures, and then write short captions under, or over, or beside the pictures so the reader can learn what's going on.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> You have been learning about sentences for quite awhile. This will be your chance to start learning to put sentences together to say your thoughts on paper. <input type="checkbox"/> Your mom will show you how to cluster your thoughts on a scrap paper before you actually write on your drawing paper. You can look to see examples in your handbook.
2	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing fables: <input type="checkbox"/> What is a fable? <input type="checkbox"/> How are fables structured?	<input type="checkbox"/> Look in your handbook to see what a fable is, and how to write one. <input type="checkbox"/> We are going to make some fables in the next few weeks. <input type="checkbox"/> You can write fables that relate to your history studies of early American colonies, or you can just write them with animals and people from other lands that best fit your story. <input type="checkbox"/> This week, try your first fable. Don't forget to cluster, and make a story map before drafting! (See handbook if you've forgotten how!)
3	<input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting: Settlers & Indians: 4 week project. <input type="checkbox"/> Planning your play.	<p>We are starting a 4-week project this week on playwriting. You will write either an entire play or a good strong scene from a play. It's up to your mom to say how much you'll do. If you want to, you can produce your play: this writing exercise is placed early in the unit so that you'll have time to conduct rehearsals with co-op friends or siblings. This week:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Read your handbook and learn the steps to writing a play. <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-write and plan your play: make a story map, telling your mom about at least 3 main characters that you plan to have. (She will print/type notes for you on what you tell her.)
4	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing Stories from history: 4 weeks. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose your subject <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your story	<p>In the next 4 weeks, we're going to write a short Historical Fiction, based on the information we're learning about Colonial America. You may have to read ahead a little if you want to set your story in a colony other than Jamestown or Plymouth. This week:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Read your handbook about writing historical fiction. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose your setting, and make sure you have enough material to read on it. If you don't have enough in the house, plan to make a trip to the library soon! <input type="checkbox"/> Choose three main characters, and write out what their lives have been like up to the point where your story begins. (Each character sketch should be about one page.) ² <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your story line, using a story map.
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Narrative: 4 week project <input type="checkbox"/> Learn about this genre <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your narrative	<p>Personal Narratives are stories that you write from personal experience.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> If you want to, you can adapt a personal experience to the setting of Colonial America. For instance, if you've been sailing, your narrative could place you on a boat crossing to Virginia. <input type="checkbox"/> Alternately, for this assignment, it's fine to stay in our own time period and work at crafting the most interesting account of a real life event that you can. Let your mom help you choose! <input type="checkbox"/> Read about personal narratives in your handbook. <input type="checkbox"/> You can choose to write one long narrative, or 2 or 4 short ones. <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your first narrative this week: cluster (mind map) your ideas and create a story map.
6	<input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting: Settlers & Indians: 4 week project. <input type="checkbox"/> Planning your play.	<p>We are starting a 4-week project this week on playwriting. You will write either an entire play or a good strong scene from a play. It's up to your mom to say how much you'll do. If you want to, you can produce your play: this writing exercise is placed early in the unit so that you'll have time to conduct rehearsals with co-op friends or siblings. This week:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Read your handbook and learn the steps to writing a play. <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-write and plan your play: make a story map <input type="checkbox"/> This week, choose three main characters, and write out what their lives have been like up to the point where your play begins. (Each character sketch should be about two pages)

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¹ Charts are written to the student, but, for economy, print is small. Moms may need to read aloud to their students each week during planning time.

² Introductory notes make it clear that all length suggestions assume double spaced, 1" margins, 12-point, Times New Roman font.

7	<input type="checkbox"/> Expository analytical essays: <input type="checkbox"/> Practice writing one	<p>This week, you are going to solidify your skills in Expository Essay writing.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Read about Expository Essays in your handbook, paying close attention to material on the thesis. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose from one of the following topics, or ask your mom to assign you a different one: ⇒ The first settlers at Jamestown were almost doomed to failure: their training, their heart attitudes, and the challenging living conditions meant that death was a real possibility for most of them. ⇒ London Company was an association of "noblemen, gentlemen, and merchants" during the early days of the American Colonies. It was perhaps not the best planning body for the new colony of Jamestown! ⇒ Jamestown would have been lost without Captain John Smith's courage, gift of leadership, and raw perseverance. Assess the validity of this statement.
8	<input type="checkbox"/> Writing About Literature: <input type="checkbox"/> Read the handbook <input type="checkbox"/> Study literary terms <input type="checkbox"/> Write a book review	<p>Choose a book that you've already read for this assignment. Once your mom approves:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Review the structure and goals of book reviews. Try to learn some new literary terms you can use. <input type="checkbox"/> Does your prewriting: cluster, then outline your report. <input type="checkbox"/> Draft and polish it this week. It should be 2-3 pages.
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Playwriting: Settlers & Indians: <input type="checkbox"/> 4 week project. <input type="checkbox"/> Planning your play.	<p>We are starting a 4-week project this week on playwriting. You will write either an entire play or a good strong scene from a play. It's up to your mom to say how much you'll do. If you want to, you can produce your play: this writing exercise is placed early in the unit so that you'll have time to conduct rehearsals with co-op friends or siblings. This week:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Read your handbook and learn the steps to writing a play. <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-write and plan your play: make a story map <input type="checkbox"/> This week, choose three main characters, and write out what their lives have been like up to the point where your play begins. (Each character sketch should be about 2-3 pages)
10	<input type="checkbox"/> Essay of Argumentation: <input type="checkbox"/> Learn form & focus <input type="checkbox"/> Practice on assigned topics	<p>This is another exercise in Persuasive Writing.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> First, read your handbook thoroughly, and look at the sample. Note the various features of this kind of essay in the side boxes throughout the sample. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose your topic: one of these, or an alternate suggested by your teacher: ⇒ The first settlers at Jamestown were almost doomed to failure: their training, their heart attitudes, and the challenging living conditions meant that death was a real possibility for most of them. ⇒ London Company was an association of "noblemen, gentlemen, and merchants" during the early days of the American Colonies. I am the king. You are a member of the London Company, applying for a charter. Persuade me that you know how to plan a successful venture! ⇒ Jamestown would have been lost without Captain John Smith's courage, gift of leadership, and raw perseverance.
11	<input type="checkbox"/> Short Story: 3 week project <input type="checkbox"/> Planning the story: story map <input type="checkbox"/> Character sketches	<p>For the next 3 weeks, we're going to write a short story.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> You can base it on the information we're learning about Colonial America, or set it in another time period. You may have to read ahead a little if you want to set your story in a colony other than Jamestown or Plymouth. This week: <input type="checkbox"/> Read your handbook about writing short stories. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose your setting. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose at least three main characters, and write out what their lives have been like up to the point where your story begins. (Each character sketch should be about three pages long.) <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your story line, using a story map. <input type="checkbox"/> Note where you'll need to find historical details as you write your character sketch and your story line. If you don't have enough research material in the house, plan a quick trip to the library soon!
12	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical Fiction: five week project <input type="checkbox"/> Choose subject <input type="checkbox"/> Gather enough sources	<p>In the next 4 weeks, we're going to write a short Historical Fiction, based on the information we're learning about Colonial America. You may have to read ahead a little if you want to set your story in a colony other than Jamestown or Plymouth. This week:</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Read your handbook about writing historical fiction. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose your setting, and make sure you have enough material to read on it. <input type="checkbox"/> Choose at least three main characters, and write out what their lives have been like up to the point where your story begins. (Each character sketch should be about three pages long.) <input type="checkbox"/> Plan your story line, using a story map. <input type="checkbox"/> Note where you'll need to find historical details as you write your character sketch and your story line. <input type="checkbox"/> If you don't have enough research material in the house, plan a quick trip to the library soon!