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| **7th Grade Launching the Reader’s/Writer’s Workshop : Memoir** |
| **Philosophy:**  In this unit, students are introduced to the concept of the reader’s/ writer’s notebook. They build a community of readers and writers as they read, discuss, write, respond to and share their work. They read memoirs and generate their own memoir ideas using the same structure and devices. Students experiment with the skills that real writers use to create meaningful memoirs. Analyzing the memoir structure with the goal of crafting their own memoir constructs a disciplined writing life focused on generating a wide range of seed ideas in the notebook before students turn to taking one of their seed ideas through the publication process.  **BECOMING A COMMUNITY OF MEMOIR WRITERS**   * Students will establish a writer’s notebook and use strategies to gather ideas for writing stories that matter. They will gather seed ideas by responding to content from mentor memoirs. * Students will explore mentor memoirs and use strategies to develop questions for analysis. * Students will understand how memoir is used to reveal a new understanding or realization about themselves from a small moment in time.   **READING IMMERSION AND DRAFTING MEMOIRS**   * Students will analyze memoir structures such as: dialogue, description and reflection in mentor memoirs. They will experiment writing with such structures. * Students will develop an understanding for literary devices in memoir. They will learn how these devices can be used to convey meaning. They will experiment using literary devices in their writing. * Students will experiment with possible memoir ideas using previous notebook entries. * Students will improve their writing skills through their evaluation and imitation of other memoir writers. * Students will form Reader Response groups to share their memoirs and determine if it conveys the message they are trying to get across, as well as, to evaluate & analyze mentor memoirs. * Students will effectively publish and celebrate one memoir that conveys a new understanding or realization. |
| **Description:**  This unit extends the launching work that has been established at the beginning of the year since grade 6. The 7th grade Launching Unit anticipates some independence and familiarity with a writing life, a writing community, response groups and the writing process. Students establish a writer’s notebook; a writing community and classroom routines which allow students to write, generate and explore habits, strategies, attitudes and techniques used by memoir writers. Students will use imitation strategies as they ultimately plan, draft, revise and edit a narrative poem preparing for a time to celebrate their writing with classmates. |
| **Unit Performance Task:**  Students will analyze the memoir structure of a variety of memoir mentor texts. Using that structure, students will take their own seed ideas and develop their own memoir. Following the structure, their memoir will show a new understanding or realization by the author through the experienced event. |
| **Formative Assessment Task:**  How are memoirs organized? What are the author’s feelings before the event, during the event and after the event? Is there a satisfying conclusion that shows the author’s new understanding or realization? How do you generate seed ideas for memoir writing? |