

CREATIVE WRITING
syllabus
Teresa S. Madore

I am using Penny Kittle's methods as described in her book, [*Write Beside Them*](#).

Key features:

1. **SSR**—10 minutes every day. Good writers read a lot. The students' self-chosen novels will also provide a basis to examine how writers write. Ex. During a mini-lesson on metaphors, the students will be asked to find examples of metaphors in their novels.
2. **Quick Writes**—the students read a poem or other excerpt of writing and respond to the piece. They will also annotate the piece. These quick writes are designed to get the student writing and responding to literature, and the quick writes will also serve as the basis for longer pieces as the year progresses. The quick write excerpts/poems are specifically chosen to elicit reflections and feelings which can be used as the basis for creative writing. The student is encouraged to write without censoring himself during this time. Quick Writes can be based on poems, essays, fiction, non-fiction, articles, etc.
These are the quick write sources we've used so far this year: "How to Become a Writer," "Autumn Song," the music in your heart, "Eleven," "Days," "Living Like Weasels."
3. **Writing Process**—writing can be a slow arduous process, but when students are free to write what they want (within guidelines of course) the results are richer and more meaningful. The students will have to produce at least 2 full-length pieces during the quarter (maybe more or less). This means they will write, peer conference, teacher conference, and revise at least 2 pieces. The students will move through the writing process at their own pace. There will be mini-lessons on grammar, style, etc., all designed to help make their writing richer and more effective. Students will aim to publish at least one piece for each quarter.
4. **The teacher writes with the students.** Whatever the students are asked to do, the teacher also participates. When the students are writing a response to a quick write, the teacher writes as well. This shows the students that we're a community of writers.
5. **Writer's Notebook.** All quick writes, drafts and projects will be included in the writers's notebook.

QUARTER ONE

Introduction to story

Mini lessons:

description

snapshot moment

metaphors

writing process

editing out ideas

20 quick writes
2 major pieces that have gone through the writing process
publish at least one piece online
2-3 special writing projects

QUARTER TWO

Continuation with story, autobiography and memoir and elements of style

minilessons:

snapshot moment

description

parallelism

tone

diction

connotations

similes

20 quick writes

2 major pieces that have gone through the writing process

publish at least one piece online

2-3 special writing projects

MIDTERM

QUARTER THREE

The art of persuasion, fantasy and science fiction

minilessons:

thesis writing

claims plus support

knowing your audience

appeals to the audience

writing conclusions

20 quick writes

2 major pieces that have gone through the writing process

publish at least one piece online

2-3 special writing projects

QUARTER FOUR

Romance, mysteries and thrillers, poetry

minilessons:

the red herring

characterization

symbolism

irony

plot

haiku

sestinas

villanelles

20 quick writes

2 major pieces that have gone through the writing process

publish at least one piece online

2-3 special writing projects

submission of portfolio

FINAL