

Memory/Bare Book

Can be adapted to any grade level.

This lesson took my sixth graders seven 45 minute periods.

Objectives:

On demand/creative writing

Paragraph writing

Materials:

Bare books construction paper

scissors overhead transparency of each page

glue sticks colored pencils

lined paper rulers

Students take great ownership in this project. The bare book makes it seem really special to them. They spend almost as much time illustrating as they do writing. We did the project in reading so that we could include the ELL learners that were pulled out for English. Many of the students used their Memory Books on Memory (yearbook signing) day. Kids who, for financial or other reasons did not purchase a yearbook, then had a book for classmates to sign.

I begin the lesson by reading *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge* by Mem Fox. It's a fun picture book and it talks about memories. I then give them an overview of what will be included in their Memory Books. It takes at least two class periods to do this and their personal favorite: decorating and personalizing the cover of their Memory books.

Each page is like a mini lesson. We start the page together as a class, and then students can return to the page later to finish it. For the pages that require paragraphs -- we review topic sentences and supporting details. We don't brainstorm ideas because each book is uniquely personalized. (Plus sixth graders can be very unoriginal sometimes!) Students spend a lot of time thinking about what to include on each page.

MEMORY/BARE BOOK*

1. Inside first page- personal information, name address, etc.
2. Blank (back of page one).
3. Boy what a buddy. Write a short paragraph about someone who has been a true friend to you this year.
4. Been there, done that. On this page list some of your favorite activities of the year.
5. A real toughie. Write a brief paragraph describing the toughest assignment you tackled this year.
6. My favorite subject- draw pictures or symbols to illustrate your favorite subject.
7. Surprise! Describe the most surprising thing that happened to you this year.
8. Congratulations! Create an award for yourself.
9. Cartoon. Illustrate and include dialogue for a cartoon about the funniest thing that happened this year in one of your classes.
10. Read all about it. List the titles and write a brief summary of five books you have read this year.
11. Read all about it, continued
12. Finish these sentences:
 1. This was a great year because. . .
 2. I'll never forget when. . .
 3. I hope next year I. . .
 4. One thing I'd never change about this year. . .
 5. One thing I wish I could change about this year. . .
13. List 5 things you never want to forget about this year.
14. Teachers, write about, get autographs.
15. Autographs and/or free choice for the remaining pages.