

Pen Pal Holiday Stories

Requirements:

- This is a creative writing project, but feel free to adapt a familiar tale and customize it to your 4th grader's personality. It must have a holiday or winter theme. It must be positive in nature and not scary. Please be aware that 9 and 10 year olds are in different stages of "belief" and these stories should be sensitive to that. You need to turn a copy of your story to me, either typed in MLA format or written in cursive.
- All artwork must be student generated including drawings, photographs, collages. You may use clip art (not copyrighted or other graphic art, but you must use it creatively. You may not have someone else do the drawings, or just cut and paste the clip art or photos you select!
- Publish the book with a cover, title page, dedication page, author biography, and reviews like you would find on any published book.
- I will provide markers, white paper, some colored paper and glue sticks. I also have a few pairs of scissors. If you would like to use other materials, feel free to bring them on Monday and bring them to class each day. I do not have room in the classroom to store your supplies so make sure you can fit them in your locker.

GRADING RUBRIC

Publication:	1pt	2	3	3	5 pts
Book Structure	Missing several publication pages, or has several errors, story pages out of order	Has most, but not all key components.		Includes front cover, title page, copyright page, dedication page, back summary.	
Creativity	Basic binding with minimal artwork. Lacks color and creativity (i.e. basic paper and pencil, few details.)			Book is creative, colorful and fun to read – uses unusual materials in unusual ways.	
Organization	Illustrations not related to text or story line, text is not spaced out over pages at natural story breaks.			Illustrations support text on page, good use of white space. Book is well spaced, balancing important elements of story. Font or hand writing is neat and appropriate in style and size.	
Conventions	Missing key parts of a story or plot. Multiple spelling and grammatical errors. Difficult to read.			Story is well written, with key elements of a good story as discussed in class. Free of spelling and grammar errors. All handwriting is legible.	
Presentation	1pt	4	8	11	15 pts
Voice	Important parts of story could not be heard. Little to no variation in vocal expression. Used lots of fillers such as "like," "so," "okay," etc.		Read loud and clear.		Class could clearly hear all words (beginnings and endings), vocal expression used to show excitement, good use of pauses/timing in phrases and ideas without OVER doing it.
Showing	Did not take time to show or explain the book. Little to no facial expression. Stood like a statue, rocked or otherwise gestured in a distracting way.				Showed all pictures, took questions appropriately, had an animated face and relaxed, fluid body language without overdoing it.

Take a picture of this rubric with your phone.

Read it and write any questions you have on the back.

Return it with the text of your story on Friday, December 4th.