

Lesson Plan

Exciting Writing

Book: *Women in Hockey*

Series: She's Got Game

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students analyze how descriptive details help make writing exciting, and practice using descriptive details in their own writing.

Supplies

- *Women in Hockey* book
- Descriptive Details questions (attached)
- Projector or computer screen
- Computer access for each student

Before the Activity

Read through the *Women in Hockey* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Chapter 1 (“Going for Gold”) of *Women in Hockey* describes a key game between Canada and the United States at the 2018 Olympics. Have students turn to page 5. Point out the following techniques the author uses to make the text on this page exciting for readers:

- starting with specific details to give readers a clear sense of the time and place the event took place
- using sensory language to help readers imagine the sights and sounds of the event

Specific details are a key part of writing both fiction and nonfiction. By describing the sounds, sights, smells, and setting of an event, writers give readers the kinds of details that people notice in real life. This helps readers feel as if they are part of the scene.

Use the projector or screen to show students the Descriptive Details questions. Writers often use questions such as these to develop details for their stories. Nonfiction writers do research to find the answers, while fiction writers invent the details themselves. Not all the details will go in the story. In fact, writers often find or create many details that never even get mentioned. But this information is not wasted—it helps create a clear picture in the writer’s mind of the people and places he or she is writing about (even if they are imaginary). This mental picture helps the writer bring the characters and setting to life for readers.

To practice these techniques, ask students to write a short story (1 to 2 pages) about an athlete. Students can choose to write about a game that really happened, or they can invent a fictional game. They can even make up a fictional team or sport. Students should type answers to each question on the Descriptive Details list. Then, students should include some of these details in their stories.

Evaluation

Collect each student's story and answers to the Descriptive Details questions. Give each student up to 22 points:

- 1 point for answering each Descriptive Details question
- 5 points for incorporating some of these details in the story
- 5 points for using good structure and organization in the story

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' writing standards, grade 5 (W 5.3).

Descriptive Details

A. Setting

1. What league and sport is this game for?
2. Which two teams are playing?
3. Describe the relationship between these teams—are they old rivals, new challengers, or undefeated champions?
4. Where is the game played—indoors or outdoors? A large stadium or a small field?
5. How many people are watching? Who are most of them cheering for?
6. What will happen to the team that wins? What about the team that loses?

B. Character

1. What is the main character's name?
2. When and why did the character begin playing this sport?
3. What does the character like best about playing this sport?
4. What are the character's other interests or hobbies?
5. What does the character look like?
6. Describe the character's personality—is this person reserved or friendly? Goofy or serious?