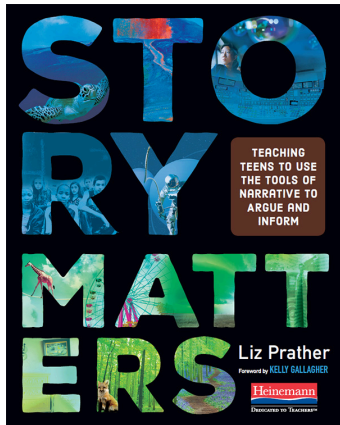


Story Matters

Liz Prather



Why stories?

- “Human beings learn through the pow of story” (xii).
- Learning narrative help students understand how to take risks in their writing and connect information.

Universal Timeline Activity

- Students create a timeline of events that have occurred in their lifetime.
- Allows students a chance to build awareness and see how their personal experiences relate to others (32).



Ideas

- “Because story is how humans assimilate information and opinions, it’s the natural place to help students see that their story is valid” (52).
- Fun activity - Give students a notebook to keep track of story ideas.
 - Have them write down as many ideas as they can (55).

Characters

- Characters help introduce and connect readers to a topic.
- Characters can expand the story.
- “Allows the reader to identify with a flesh-and-blood person” (67).

Tension

- “Stories are traps” (84).
- Tension helps to keep readers invested.
- One way to create tension - put the characters in a tense situation and have them resolve it throughout the work (89).

Structure

- “Writing is often compared to a puzzle” (101).
- Ways for students to practice structure:
 - Listing
 - Mapping
 - Assembling
 - Questioning

Details

- Details help readers understand the information and emotionally connect to the story,
- Different types of details (128-136):
 - Characters
 - Setting (Time and Place)
 - Action
 - Examples

Language

- Misconception in writing: Bigger words = better words (152.)
- Words and sentences “make the idea clear, move the reader closer to the goal of the essay” (146).
- It is important to teach students to organize their thoughts into effective communication (160).

