

Count Your Way through...the Writing Process!

Using James Haskins' books as a writing model

Teacher: Holly Hudson

Subject: English/Language Arts & Information Literacy

Grade: 5

Goals/Objectives:

- Students will read and demonstrate listening ability while working with a partner using a “Count Your Way Through” book.
- Students will discuss different culture/country with partner and compare it to their own.
- Students will demonstrate each part of the writing process including prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing.
- Students will collaborate with others during the writing process.
- Students will create a “count your way through” book.

Language Arts Curriculum Standards

Alabama Course of Study:

- 5.10- Read and view literature representative of various cultures, eras, genres, and ideas to develop an appreciation of their heritage and that of others.
- 5.16- Compare and contrast cultural similarities and differences of the world through exposure to multicultural literature.
- 5.22-Write in a variety of modes to express meaning.
- 5.24-Organize content of written compositions with attention to basic characteristics.
- 5.25-Use the writing process when composing different forms of written expression.
- 5.26-Know and apply principles of grammar and usage in writing, speaking, and presenting and apply mechanics in writing.
- 5.28-Spell correctly in final written products.
- 5.34-Organize and present information in visual, oral, and/or print form.

Information Literacy Objectives

Literacy Partners (ALSDE, 1999-Grade 5):

- Retrieve information about a given topic from sources in different formats.
- Collaborate with others, using technology to share information.

Materials:

Count Your Way through... series, by Jim Haskins

Numbers 1-10 cut out for brainstorming activity (one set for each student)

Drafting worksheets with numbers 1-10

Crayons, markers, construction paper, etc.

Pre-lesson Activities:

Divide students into pairs, giving each a copy of one of the *Count Your Way through...* books. Students will take turns reading aloud to one another and then choose a favorite

fact from the book about their country. They should also discuss characteristics of the country or culture and how they differ from ours. When students finish, take a few moments as a class to discuss what the students read and their opinions.

Activities:

Pre-writing: Explain to students that they are going to create their own “Count Your Way through ...” book as we practice using the writing process. They may choose to Count Your Way through their local school, city, or even state. For example: Count Your Way through Longleaf Elementary or Count your way through Auburn, Alabama. Give each student a set of cut out numbers 1-10. (the 1 and 0 will need to be taped together for the number 10). Students will brainstorm on numbers of things in their local community (such as Auburn University has 1 football stadium, 2 Heisman trophy winners, 3 mascots, won 4 national championships in 2006, 5 consecutive wins against Alabama in football, 6 SEC championships in baseball, etc.). Students may want to use the *Count Your Way through...* series for ideas and inspiration. Student should also use interviews, other books, Web pages, etc to research and check facts for their writing.

Drafting: Give each student a sheet of paper with the numbers 1-10 listed and space to write beside each number. Students will choose items 1-10 from their brainstorming activity and write a paragraph for each number explaining it in detail. There should be at least one paragraph for each number and each paragraph should be well developed. Students also need to draft an introductory note about their chosen location for the front of their book.

Revising: In groups, students are to proof-read each other’s paragraphs and make revisions or suggestions. Review and remind them how use proper editing marks.

Editing: On a clean piece of paper, students should edit and correct their paragraphs making improvements before their final copy. Be sure to point out each step of the writing process covered as students are working. Teacher should also review and make suggestions as students are working.

Publishing: In the publishing phase, students will use a word processor to put their paragraphs into book form and illustrate each page in color. They also need to create an illustrated cover and an optional “about the author” page where they briefly tell about themselves. Final copies will be displayed and shared with the class.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed both formally and informally during this assignment. Students will be responsible for class participation, group work, and effort shown. Students will turn in all work done during the prewriting, drafting, revising, and editing phases, as well as the final published book.

The final book will be assessed by a rubric based on (1) completeness-all numbers 1-10 accounted for, (2) pages illustrated and colored and in order, (2) cover, illustrated and colored, and included introductory note, (4) at least one well-developed and organized

paragraph for each number, (5) correct spelling and grammar including capitalization, punctuation, subject-verb agreement, and appropriate verb tenses, (6) effort and creativity.

Other Curriculum connections:

Social Studies (geography)-Students can locate on a map and research other facts about the country in their *Count Your Way through ...* book.

Additional extra credit may be given to students who choose to learn to count from 1 to 10 in another language.

Math- Students can create, solve, and illustrate a math word problem using 2 or more operations (multiplication, addition, subtraction, division), substituting the English numbers 1-10 for numbers in another language.

Resources:

Alabama Course of Study Curriculum Standards. Alabama State Department of Education, Third-Fifth Grade. (www.alsde.edu/html/sections/)

Information Literacy Objectives. Literacy Partners: A Principal’s Guide to an Effective Library Media Program for the 21st Century. (2000) “Appendix B K-12 Information Objectives.” Fifth Grade. (<http://www.alsde.edu/general/LiteracyPartners.pdf>)

Author information on James Haskins:

Alabama literary map, “This Goodly Land: Alabama’s Literary Landscape.” (<http://www.alabamaliterarymap.org/author.cfm?AuthorID=28>)

Haskins, James. *Count Your Way* series, published by Carolrhoda Books, Inc.
Countries included in Count Your Way series:

Afghanistan	Egypt	Ireland	Mexico
Africa	France	Israel	Russia
The Arab world	Germany	Italy	South Africa
Brazil	Greece	Japan	Zimbabwe
Canada	India	Kenya	
China	Iran	Korea	