

2008 Portfolio Scoring Training Materials

Grade 7

Training Portfolio

Adoration of Misfortune

KENTUCKY WRITING PORTFOLIO

Table of Contents

Grade 7

Student Signature Sheet Included and Signed

Y N (Circle One)

Number of pieces	Category/Descriptor	Content area At least one piece must come from a content area other than English/ language arts	Page
1	<i>Reflective Writing</i> (e.g., letter, personal essay)		
	Title: Truth and Fiction	English	1
1	<i>Personal Expressive OR Literary Writing</i> personal narrative, memoir, personal essay, story, poem, script, play		
	Title: Adoration of Misfortune	English	7
1	<i>Transactional Writing</i> various authentic genres (forms)		
	Title: The City of Eternal Light	Social Studies	14
3	Total (must equal 3)		

PH/4/19

After the Table of Contents has been reviewed for accuracy and completeness *prior* to scoring, the person helping the student complete the portfolio should initial and date in the space provided to the left.

Student Signature Sheet

(Required in Each Portfolio)

Please read the Note to Students and Teachers below before signing the following statements.

Required Verification Signature

The pieces in this portfolio are my own original work. I am the author of all the pieces in my portfolio. I may have talked about my work (through conferencing) with my teacher, family, and friends, but I have made any changes and corrections myself. I did my own writing, typing, and/or word processing (unless otherwise indicated by a teacher's signature in the box below labeled "IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan Adaptations").

K P
Student Signature _____

IEP/504 Plan/Program Services Plan (LEP) Adaptations (requires teacher signature):

Teacher Signature: _____

Optional Permission

I agree to allow my portfolio to be photocopied for use by others outside my school as an example of student work. I understand that my name, the names of my school and town, and any other identifying information I may have used in my writing will be removed before my portfolio is copied.

K P
Student Signature (optional) _____

Required Verification Signature: It is required that the work contained in each portfolio is the original work of the student. Every portfolio must include the statement, signed by the student, that the work in the portfolio is his/her original work. This sheet must be placed in the portfolio. If the verification statement is not signed, the portfolio will receive a performance rating of Incomplete.

Optional Permission: The use of actual student portfolios is critical in teacher training and is essential for quality control checks during statewide rescoring activities. Students are requested, but not required, to give permission for this purpose and should sign the optional student signature above if they agree.

Please note that portfolios are included in any statewide rescoring activities even if neither statement is signed.

Truth and Fiction

As I walked into the room that I was told English class would take place, I first noticed the quotes that lined the walls. Some were by people I recognized, others were by strangers. I slowly sat down in a seat, and looked up at a quote that hung near the clock. It read, "Fiction is truth's older sister. -Rudyard Kipling." That wasn't a name I knew, but I liked the quote. I looked away, yet the words floated around in my mind. What did it mean exactly? How could fiction and truth be siblings, when neither one of them are alike, nor are they actual people? These were the questions I asked myself, before I understood what it did mean. As the year carried on, I began to learn what the quote's words were hinting at. It meant that fiction is like an older version of truth. It is nearly the same as its younger sibling, but oh so different. Fiction is beautiful, not necessarily more mature, but beautiful. It lacks a realistic feel, most times, but still reflects on what truth is. Truth is beautiful too, but with the blemishes of real life, things are messy and sometimes confusing. This is why truth needs fiction; to escape the reality.

Ever since I have been a child, writing has been my passion. I am constantly writing new stories, scribbling down ideas, and sharing them with my friends. My favorite style of writing is fiction. Fiction is a door to another world to me; I can do whatever I want to with it. I know for sure that this older sister is my favorite. This older sister is always there beside of me, looking over my shoulder as I write, smiling warmly. She watches, and often points out my mistakes to remind me that she is not exactly like her younger sister.

I first began to write at a very young age, around two years old. My mother gave

me a pencil and a piece of paper, and I would wander around, observing things. Then, an idea would strike me, and I would rush to write it down. Of course, I was young, so my handwriting was nothing more than shapes. Either way, I was excited. I ran to show my mother, waving the paper in her face. She would listen to me as I would recite the shapes in the form of a story. Then she would smile, and simply pat my head. I'm sure she thought I was just a tad wrong in the head, but Fiction giggled, while Truth arrived and scoffed.

Reading also appealed to me at a young age. I love adventurous, drama filled books, with a dash of charming characters and witty creativity. I'm certain this was why I fell head-over-heels for The Outsiders right away. Ms. H presented the book to us towards the beginning of the year, and most of the class wasn't as excited as I was. Okay, I had never even heard of the book, but I knew it must be good if Ms. H said it was one of her favorites. Fiction and Truth agreed with me.

I felt my excitement and thoughts about the book become truth. As the class read the book together, and then discussed it, I also felt myself become more open. I loved talking about the book, especially Dallas, who was one of the characters in the book. Dallas Winston was described as having an, "elfish face, with high cheek bones and a pointed chin, small, animal teeth, and ears like a lynx." He was also considered, "tougher, colder, and meaner," than the rest of the gang. I always have had a soft spot for the bad guys, and Dally seemed perfect in my eyes. Characters are very important to me, but I'll get into that later. The Outsiders is by far one of the best books out there, and I'd recommend it to anyone. It affected my real life, as well as my writing. I suddenly wanted to share everything I had written, to see if anything could even compare to this

wonderful book.

After *The Outsiders*, I had the need to share my pieces with the world, but I had to start small. Ms. H seemed to be perfect for this role. I first sent her a short story I had been working on at home. She apparently loved it, and I was boosted with confidence. It was then I introduced her to my older sister, my Fiction. I began to search through the files on my computer, looking for decent stories to send her. I also started to write more and more, whether I was assigned to or not. Doing this developed two more short stories, one of which I am still working on. Fiction nods with approval, as Truth yawns in the corner, bored with my worlds.

The characters I created while writing are always with me. If I were to compare some of my stories to the older ones, I would see that my characters all have similar personalities. Alexander, my dark, quiet male, is by far one of my favorites to write about. There is also Xavier, who is similar to Alex, only more upbeat and talkative. Xavier reminds me highly of Dallas from *The Outsiders*. I believe that's where I got my inspiration for him. They both share the blonde hair, the cold, icy blue eyes that are "hardened with a hatred of the world," and each have a criminal record of their own. Their attitudes are also alike- rough and tough. In my opinion, creating characters is my area of expertise in fiction. I would love nothing more than to sit and write down ideas for characters all day long. Yet, the hard part for me is fishing out places and plots to place these characters in.

It was once said in the words of Donald Murray, that "problems make good subjects," I found this quote on Mrs. H wall. With this quote in mind, my storylines are often very deep and dark. Having stories that I can add twists and turns to is

always fun, and conflicts are my way of doing this. I also use my characters, most of which have differing personalities. For example, I have Evelyn, who is a snobby New Yorker, and then I have Vance, who is friendly and goofy. These two characters have opposite personalities, and this could also cause problems in the plot. It could also depend on the point of view I write in. I prefer third person, which is like an invisible person watching the plot unfold. However, first person is telling a story in a certain character's point of view. I find it challenging because you have to write everything in that character's point of view, along with their thoughts and feelings. Truth finds that first person is the easiest of them all, while Fiction believes first and second could be equal in quality and challenge.

The hardest part about coming up with situations to put my characters in isn't coming up with the ideas themselves, but keeping them organized. I will get awesome ideas during school, but never bother to write them down. I just hope I'll remember them when I get home. Despite my hope, this never seems to work out. I'll just remember a tiny bit of the idea, but never the twists that I have added on to it. This is why I've come to realize how important a plot diagram is. A plot diagram is used to plan out the piece I am going to write. I have only used a plot diagram for my portfolio pieces when I was assigned. I never used them on my own; I didn't think they'd make much of a difference. But I was certainly wrong.

Ms. H explained to our class what a plot diagram was, and we listened to her talk about the many types. One type that stood out to me was the witch's hat. It is drawn as it sounds, like a "V" drawn upside down, as shown in Figure 1. It has one end curly, like a hook, and the other is rather flat. This diagram is used to plot the events in

once, Truth looks impressed.

Thoughtshots are something in writing I have found to be very entertaining. In one of my short stories, a blonde woman approaches Xavier. He thinks to himself, *She's kind of pretty...* and speaks as if he is distracted. I love this and I guess that's why I want to get better at first person view. First person view is full of thoughtshots. Fiction told me that magic happens in a writer's mind, including a character's, and it can't be explained. Real personality shows through thoughtshots, and they should be cherished.

As I stated once before, fiction is my favorite sister, and style of writing. Yet, I try to do things that trail away from fiction, like poetry. But, even though I try, it doesn't mean I'm good at it. I've learned this the hard way, because I honestly like poetry, but my heart is never in it. I constantly try to produce a good poem, but it never seems to work. I've realized that poetry limits what I want to get out, while fiction will take whatever I offer. Still, I love how poetry can be short and still have the same, breathtaking effect that a story can. I decided a long time ago, though, that poetry just wasn't something I had strengths in.

This year has given me many opportunities to grow, and I'm sure I took nearly every one. My older sister is still my main focus, and I am working on my skills with her. I hope I'll improve with prewriting, first person view, and thoughtshots. I know I will continue to write for my whole life, and I might even be able to pull off a book. Who knows? But with my sisters beside me, even uninterested Truth, I know nothing can go wrong.

