Lesson 3

📝 Creating an Adventure Story

OBJECTIVE
Students will use the writing process—planning, drafting, revising, editing—to create an original story or narrative about a historical or literary problem solver.

TIME REQUIRED
90–120 minutes

MATERIALS
- Build Your Story activity sheet
- Computers plus projector or interactive whiteboard

PREP
Before you start this lesson, review the Google Applied Digital Skills "If/Then Adventure Story" unit at **g.co/applieddigitalskills/adventurestories**.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM
This flexible ELA lesson is part of the "Digital Skills Get Real" program, which includes video-based blended learning units from Google's Applied Digital Skills curriculum. For more info, go to **g.co/applieddigitalskills/scholastic**.

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1 Have students brainstorm, in writing, a list of elements that make a great story (e.g., characters the reader can empathize with, an evocatively described setting, a problem the reader can relate to). Collect these elements on the board and discuss as a class.

2 Explain that students will work in groups of three or four to write an interactive if/then story about a historical or literary figure solving a problem. They will format their story as a slide presentation that includes text and visuals, focusing their plot on a main character who solves a problem to reach a goal.

3 Display the Applied Digital Skills "If/Then Adventure Story" unit with a projector or on an interactive whiteboard. Review Lesson 2 in the video unit with the class (students can also watch videos on computers in smaller groups). It will introduce them to group decision-making and story-element brainstorming. Then direct groups to complete the Build Your Story activity sheet together.

4 After students have determined the details of their stories, direct them to complete Lessons 3 and 4 in the "If/Then Adventure Story" unit on their own. Using the video instructions, students will use a shared document to develop a slide presentation featuring a short interactive adventure story with words and images inspired by the details they mapped out on the activity sheet. The step can be completed in class, or you can instruct students to create their adventure story at home, collaborating virtually and bringing a draft of their slide presentation to class on a given date.

5 Facilitate a peer feedback session on the story drafts, including feedback on the digital features. Then have students make revisions to their stories, complete a final edit, and proofread the text for grammar and spelling errors.

6 Wrap up the lesson by having students deliver their slide presentation to the class.

EXTENSION
Students can place their historical or literary character into the digital world by writing a series of first-person social media or blog posts.

Build Your Story

This creative exercise will help your group get inside your character's head, develop his or her voice, and practice coming up with story plots. Use your imagination—there are no wrong answers in fiction!

Who is your historical or literary character?

_____

_____

Try Out Their Voice

Complete these sentences in the voice of your character:

"People know I'm really good at _____ ,

but they would be surprised that I also know how to _____

_____

_____ ."

"I had to overcome some big obstacles to solve my problem, including _____

_____

_____

_____ ."

Think Creatively

Discuss as a group and see where the conversation leads!

- If your character could be best friends with another historical or literary character who lived during the same time period, who would it be and why?

- Your character is writing a diary entry about the most difficult day in their life. What would they write?

- If your character could time-travel to the present, what would they think about today's tech innovations?

- Imagine your character could spend one whole day doing their favorite activities. What would their day be like?

- Draw a problem-solver web to brainstorm all the different ways the problem in your story could be solved (write your problem in the center bubble of the web).

- Conduct a mini-debate with a group member to argue for different solutions to your story's problem.