Lesson 3: Drafting the Impossible

UNIT: Magical Objects

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret.

Recently, I saw a video from a YouTube channel called Dude Perfect. They set up incredible trick shots where they try to get a ping pong ball into a cup. Check out this awesome trick.

Wow! What a great trick.

Imagine that you wanted to tell a friend what happened in this video.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: How would you describe what happened in this video? Use lots of details.

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but you probably described each part of the video. You might have described how the shot was set up, or maybe you explained what happened first, next, and at the end. If you told a friend, "A man hit a ping pong ball into a cup," they probably would have imagined something totally different. Explaining each part of the video helps someone picture the video more accurately.

When you retold what happened in the video, you did something very similar to what I do when I draft a story. Whenever I'm writing a story, I want my reader to imagine everything that is happening. One way to do this is by imagining each part of my story—like a video playing in my mind. Then, I write down descriptions of everything I imagined. I can also add details, like the setting and what my character is thinking and feeling.

You've been planning a story about a magical object from Zoe's box. Your plan has a beginning, middle, and an end. Today, you will draft your story by describing everything that your character experiences along the way. You can imagine each event like a movie in your mind to add lots of descriptions of everything that happens.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

STEP 2

Get your Story Plan and Character worksheets.

Review what you have already planned for your story.

Read what you wrote on both worksheets. If you want, you can make changes.

STEP 3

Get your Transition Phrases worksheet. This page is full of words and phrases that you can use while you draft, to help write your story in order, and include lots of details.

Now you can get your desk ready to draft. You can put your Plan, your Character worksheet, and your Transition Phrases worksheet in a neat pile nearby in case you want to go back to them along the way.

You'll be drafting your story on your lined paper.

Get a sharp pencil and anything else you need to get started on your writing.

STEP 4

When writers make a draft, they know that they might make changes to it along the way or later on.

To make room for changes, you can write on every other line of your lined paper. That way, you have space to add or change sentences later on.

On your binder paper, draw a small "x" at the start of every other line to remind yourself to skip those lines for now.

STEP 5

Begin by using your Story Plan to help you write the beginning of your story. Then you can move on to the next events in your Story Plan. Remember to picture each event like a video in your mind to add lots of details.

Write as much of your story as you have time for today.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers! Your magical object stories are coming to life with all the details that you imagined. I can't wait to read them!

In the writing process, you've generated ideas, made a plan, and started a draft of your story. It's okay if you didn't get to finish your draft today. You can always finish it at another time.

In the next lesson, you'll revise and edit your writing to make it exactly how you want it to be. Then you can create your final draft and design a fun cover for your story.

Your draft pages are V.I.P.s, so be sure to keep them somewhere safe with the rest of your worksheets. I'll see you next time.