

Creative Writing with Story Maps



“The journey to getting story ideas.”

Sail with Sherrie Schmidt as she navigates you through the process of gathering ideas for a great story.

Her visual presentation of creating a **story map** for writing offers the writer ways to focus on the main components needed for a story. The story map encourages the writer to brainstorm using words and graphics while filling in the map. The story map guides the writer as he/she begins to tell a story through words/pictures. Like a navigational map, the writer can choose the path he/she wants to take, but the story map ensures that the writer will visit each location to include all the important details needed to write a story that won't *sink*.

Let's Make Waves – Safe Harbor, Rough Seas



The Seashell Safe Harbor, Be Happy Author, Sherrie Schmidt, will share the story with your children. Prior to reading the story, Sherrie will interact with the children to teach them hand motions to use during the reading. “The sails go swish, swish, the waves go splash, splash”

After the story, a **Q&A session** will be used to **encourage students to speak in front of an audience** and ask questions that will help them learn more about the coastal life, a character’s feeling, etc. The reader’s discussion at the end of the book will be used.

Wave Bottle Fun- Sherrie will have wave bottles to let the children explore the wave motions. A handout will be provided for educators to use if they choose to create their own wave bottles.

“Always a favorite with the children!”

Finding Treasures - Using seashells to tell a story.



Sherrie Schmidt will share [The Seashell Safe Harbor, Be Happy](#), story with your children. Using hand motions and facial expressions to enhance the storytelling, Sherrie would follow up the storytelling using seashells to **create conversation among the children** with questions such as, “If you picked up ten seashells while walking on the beach, what would you do with them, where do you think they traveled from, what determines the seashell’s color and shape?.....”

After sharing seashell conversations, each child will take a seashell and decide what journey they want their seashell to take. Ideas for follow-up include – write a fiction or non-fiction story about the seashell, create an art project using the seashell as the focus, write a short phrase on the seashell to share with others as a gift.

Lighthouse Strong- What makes you strong? Finding courage.

The Seashell Safe Harbor, Be Happy is a story about Happy the Sailboat that is asked to do something new that makes him worry. This is a topic that affects all of us at some point in our lives. After reading the story, Sherrie will have a brainstorm session where the children will write/draw two things that they would like to try but haven't yet. We will discuss ways to help them reach their goals. Using nautical images such as the buoy in the story “**Believe in yourself**”, a lighthouse **shining on the positive** and not just the negative things in life, the sail on a sailboat with a visual image that gives them **encouragement**, finding a starfish, pelican or dolphin friend that will **guide you** along the way, the Be Happy booklet will encourage children to **discover the possibilities** that they want to pursue.

The author wants each child to look forward to “Sail-a-bration” moments –

