



Writing Your Story Teacher's Guide

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This guide helps teachers prepare for the Crayola Creativity Week daily theme *Writing Your Story*. Make copies of the two related Thinking Sheets: *Illustrating Lyrics* and *Star In Your Story* for students. Gather art supplies so students can illustrate song lyrics and draw themselves as stars of their stories. Colors of the World® markers, crayons, and colored pencils help children draw themselves. Paint brush pens or markers are great for illustrating lyrics.

Trinity Bliss is a musician, singer, songwriter, and actor who played Tuk in *Avatar: The Way of Water*. She talks about the importance of telling your authentic personal narrative and how she does that through her song lyrics.

The Story of You, written by Lisa Ann Scott and illustrated by Sue Cornelison, uses a poetic and painterly art style to describe how every decision we make and every action we take writes our life story.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES—Students will:

- explore the importance of self-reflection and understand how the decisions we make and the actions we take are constantly writing our life story,
- develop the social and emotional skills that impact how we connect with others,
- consider how creativity lies deep within each of us and is expressed in unique ways as we “write our story,” and
- realize that each of us is the star in our unique story.



Using the *Illustrating Lyrics* Thinking Sheet have students **RESPOND** to Trinity Bliss's description of how she writes song lyrics to express her feelings, tell her personal story, and focus on what inspires her. Play her songs and those of other songwriters in order to help students identify phrases that paint a mental picture. Encourage them to focus on decisions they make and actions they take that show them at their best.



Students will **CREATE** art that illustrates the song lyrics. Encourage students to practice editing several phrases using art from the examples on their thinking sheet to see how this affects the image's meaning.

What if the lyrics for the sunrise scene addressed a sunset or talked about wanderlust and looking for new horizons? What if the lyrics for the drawing of a musician asked others to join her in song or focused on finding her voice?



Students will **PRESENT** their art and lyrics in a visual display. There is a musical or poetic tone to this activity so students could present it as a *Poetry Out Loud* sharing session or hum a tune that suits their song lyrics.



CONNECT students' behaviors and decisions to their understanding of themselves and their interactions with others. Use song lyrics as a springboard for a class discussion about being their best self, showing personal values, or as Trinity says, *journaling their lives*.



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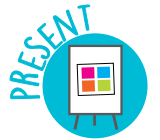
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Using the *Star In Your Story* Thinking Sheet, have students **RESPOND** to the book's insights by having a class discussion about the statement that “each person has the freedom and responsibility to shape how the world sees them” and can determine what comes next in their story. Ask students what it means to be their best selves and to “let their star shine.”



Students will **CREATE** art that shows themselves as the star of their stories.



Students will **PRESENT** their art to the class, others in the school community, or their families. You could have the students form pairs or small groups and record each other's comments as a journalist would. These notes could be displayed with the art to document how students learned more about each other.



CONNECT the choices students make to the ideas of personal freedom and responsibility. Have a class discussion about self-reflection and how this helps us learn from our experiences.



At the end of these creative experiences ask students to help assess what they learned and enjoyed. How could they continue to explore other types of character stories? Reflection and editing are pillars of the story writing process—whether a journalist's story, autobiography, biographical poem, blog, personal memoir, or as this activity pointed out, a visual narrative presented as an illustration.



Note for teachers and parents:

For more creative inspiration and hands-on explorations go to [Crayola.com/CreativityWeek](https://www.crayola.com/CreativityWeek)
To share student artwork on social media please post using [#CrayolaCreativityWeek](https://twitter.com/CrayolaCreativityWeek)
We can't wait to see what they create.



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