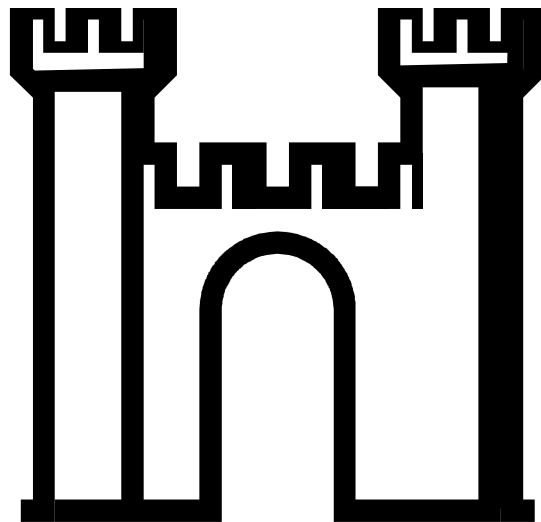


# Writing Castle Folder

A Creative Writing Activity

Presented by  
Ms. Mariely Sanchez



## **Lesson Plan**

**Subject:** Language Arts  
**Topic:** Narrative Writing  
**Grades:** K-5

**Objective:** The student, after reviewing the parts of a narrative story, will be able to create a writing castle folder out of construction paper and write a creative narrative story using the prompt: "Once upon a day in a medieval castle..."

### **Sunshine State Standards:**

**Grades K-2:** LA.B.1.1.1, LA.B.1.1.2, LA.B.1.1.3

**Grades 3-5:** LA.B.1.2.1, LA.B.1.2.2, LA.B.1.2.3

### **Gifted Goals and Objectives:**

- The student will demonstrate growth in creative thinking. Given open-ended tasks requiring divergent production, the student will be able to modify or expand upon an idea by adding detail. (2.5)
- The student demonstrates growth/use and interpretation of verbal/non-verbal communication skills. Given a topic for the purpose of communication, the student will be able to adapt attitude, point of view, content, and style in terms of audience, purpose, situation, and subject. (8.9)

### **Activities:**

1. The teacher will review with the class the different parts of a narrative story.
2. Students will then review the writing process (prewriting, writing, revising, editing, and publishing).
3. Students will be given the prompt: "Once upon a day in a medieval castle..."
4. Students will make a list on the board, as a class, about the different things that may occur one day in a medieval castle (prewriting).
5. Students will then be given instructions on how to create a writing castle folder out of construction paper (see the instructions included in this packet).  
*\*Note: This activity might take more than one day to complete.*
6. Once the students create their writing folder, they will continue working on their narrative stories using the writing process.
7. Students will be reminded about the different parts of a narrative story. They will begin to write their first draft (writing).
8. Students will read over their stories in order to improve and make them better (revising).
9. Students will read over their stories to check for grammar and spelling (editing).
10. Students will exchange their papers with a partner and have them read it and make suggestions (revising & editing).
11. Students will then write their final drafts on a 5.75" x 4.75" piece of paper (please provide as many sheets as needed). This story will be glued on the inside of the castle writing folder doors.
12. The final project is ready to be shared with the class and displayed throughout the classroom (publishing).

**Assessment:** The students will use the writing process effectively in order to create a narrative story that has a beginning, middle, and end. The final project will be graded using a rubric (please see enclosed rubric for grades 3-5).

**Materials:** Please see the instructions for making the writing castle folder.

**Modifications:**

Grades K-2: Instead of writing a narrative story, the students will illustrate a story. The students will need to draw pictures that represent each of the following: characters in their story (no more than 4), the setting, the problem, three main events, how the problem is solved, and a final picture showing the end. In addition, students will create a title page and they will include a sentence for each illustrated page. Please see the enclosed rubric for this modified K-2 activity.

**Adaptations:**

Language Arts: This writing castle folder can also be used for other prompts that can be incorporated into this castle theme. You might have students use this writing castle folder to write a fairy tale, retell a fairy tale, or to describe and draw the main characters of a fairy tale.

Mathematics: This is a great activity to use in math that incorporates both mathematical skills and writing skills. Use the instructions provided to have students measure their own shapes when making the castle. Have them review the meaning of symmetry and have them use it when making the castle folder. When students finish making their castles, have them write a creative story about a castle or a castle town made out of various mathematical shapes such as: circles, rectangles, squares, triangles, etc. You may even have them create a unique pattern for the castle body or the tower parapets and write about it. The possibilities are endless.

Social Studies: Use this activity as an extension to a time period unit where castles are mentioned such as the medieval period, the renaissance, etc. Have students work on a report about these time periods or about castles (history, events, etc.) and have them place their report inside the castle doors.

Science: This folder can be used as a creative way to have students compare various inventions from then and now. Have students research what kind of inventions were used during the middle ages and the renaissance. Then have them write a report or illustrate "then" and "now" inventions inside their castle folders.

**References:**

February: Making Books with Pockets: Grades 1-3 by Michelle Noble Barnett. Published by Evan-Moor Corp. (EMC 585). 1999

Sunshine State Standards

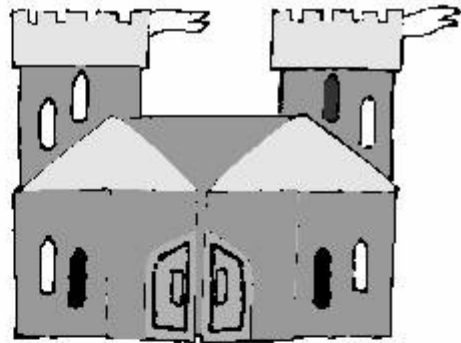
MDCPS Gifted Program Goals and Objectives

## **Instructions for Making the Writing Castle Folder**

In order to make the Writing Castle Folder please use the directions provided below. Please note that the colors for each construction paper may be changed to your liking.

### **Materials**

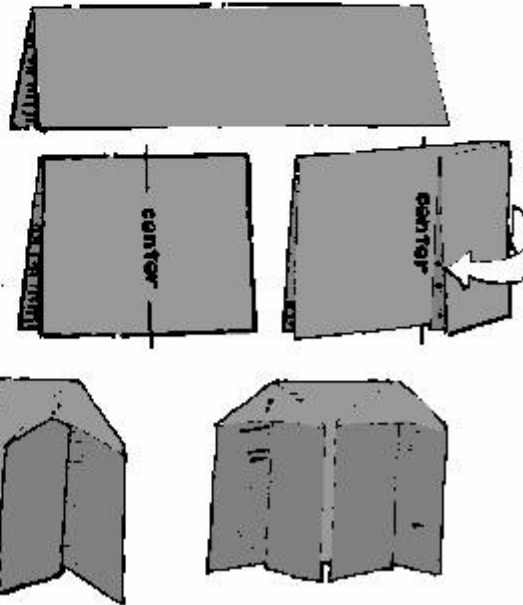
- construction paper
  - castle—gray, 12" x 18" (30.5 x 45.5 cm)
  - towers—two gray, 4" x 6" (10 x 15 cm) pieces
  - castle roofs—pink, 4" (10 cm) square
  - tower parapets—pink, 4" x 5" (10 x 13 cm)
  - doors—light brown, 4" (10 cm) square
  - windows—black and yellow scraps
  - flags—colorful scraps
- scissors
- glue



### **Steps to Follow**

*Fold the basic building:*

1. Fold the large gray paper in half the long way.
2. Open up and fold in half the other way.
3. Fold each end to the center.
4. Fold down corners, opening outside flaps.

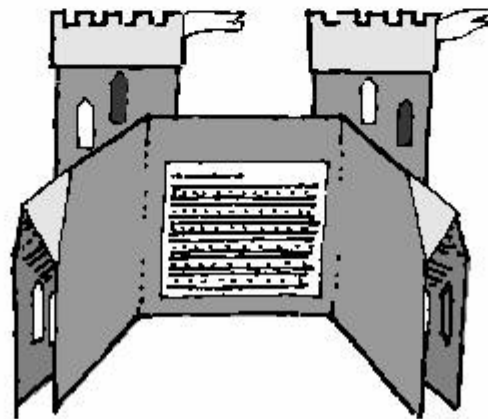
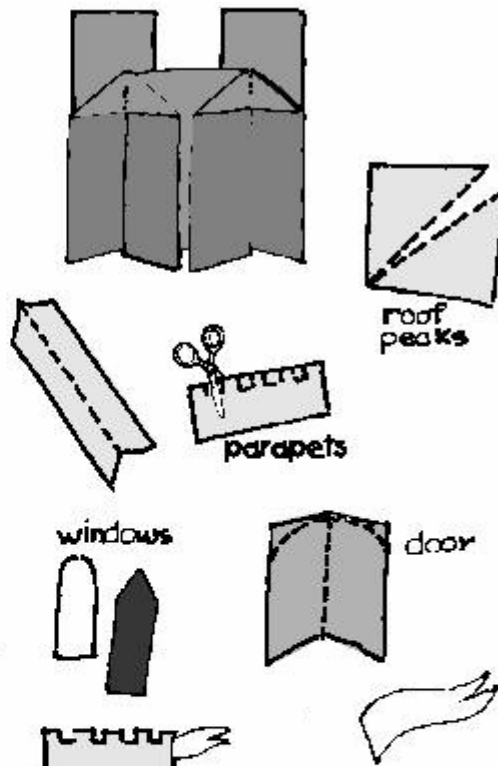


# **Instructions for Making the Writing Castle Folder**

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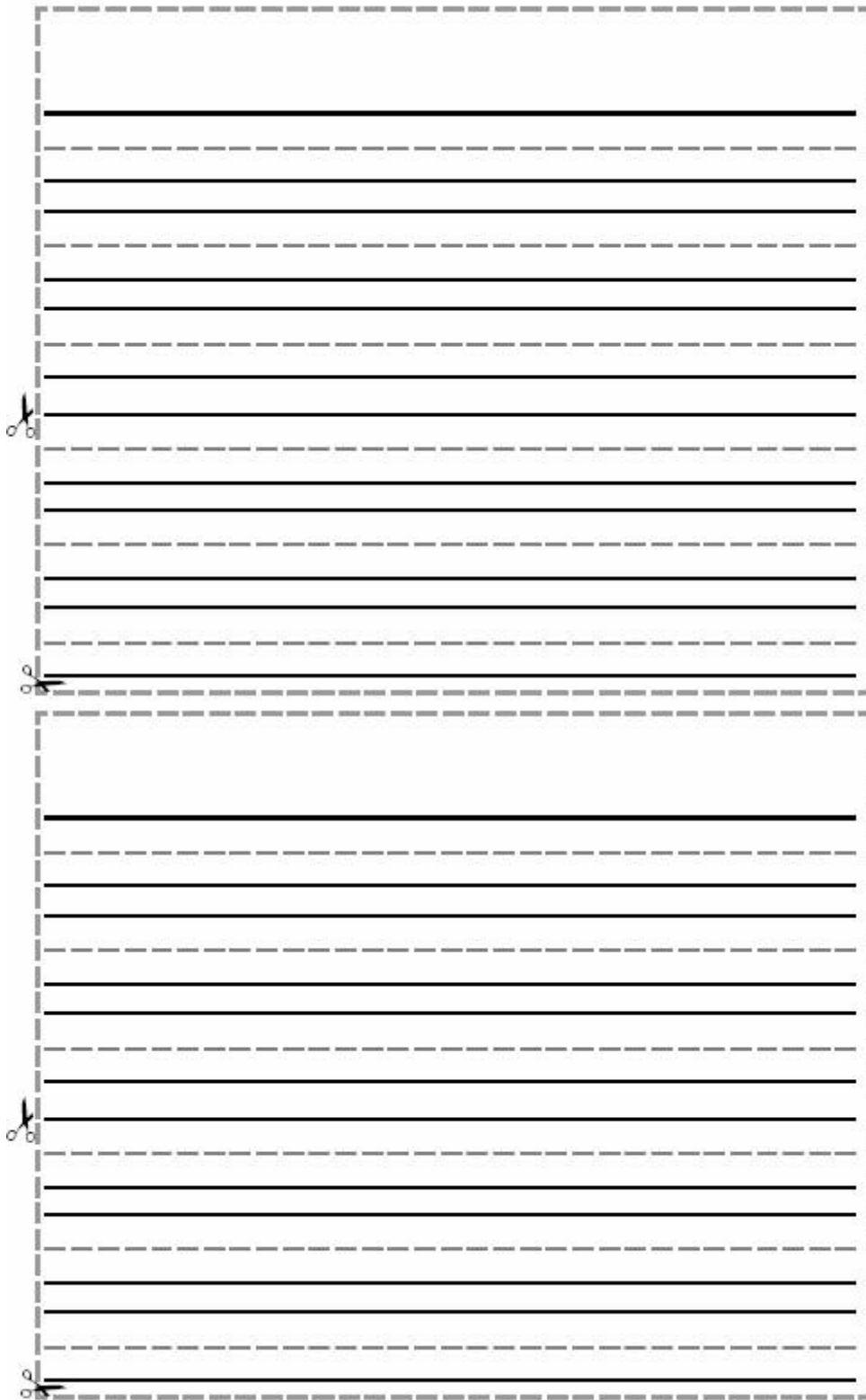
## *Making the castle:*

1. Glue the gray rectangles to the back to create towers that extend about 2" (5 cm) above the peaks of the roof.
2. Cut the pink square in half diagonally. Glue these triangles onto the roof peaks.
3. Fold the pink rectangle in half the long way and cut.
4. Make  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.25 cm) cuts along one long side about every  $\frac{1}{2}$ " (1.25 cm). Cut out every other section to form parapets.
5. Glue the parapets to the tops of the towers.
6. To make the castle doors, round the top corners of the light brown paper. Fold in half and cut into two pieces. Glue on either side of the center opening.
7. Use scrap paper to make windows and flags.



# **Instructions for Making the Writing Castle Folder**

(Continued...)



# Story Frame

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Beginning Checklist:

- Story "Hook"       Description of Characters       Description of Setting
- Present Problem/Conflict

Once upon a day in a medieval castle \_\_\_\_\_

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### Middle Checklist:

- 3 Main Events       Supporting Details       Description of Setting
- Description of Characters       Indirectly mention problem

When suddenly \_\_\_\_\_

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### End Checklist:

- Show how problem is solved       Describe Characters       Describe Setting
- End the story with a "BANG!" or a "Bling!"

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_

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**Castle Writing Folder Rubric**  
(Grades 3-5)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Points	Earned Points
The student described the characters throughout the story.	20	
The student described the setting throughout the story.	20	
The problem/conflict is evident from the beginning of the story.	20	
There are at least 3 main events present in the body of the story.	20	
The problem is stated indirectly throughout the story.	20	
The student demonstrates how the problem is solved.	20	
The story ends with a shocking or action packed event (BANG!) or with a happy, soft, and light event (Bling!).	20	
<b>Total Earned Points</b> (Out of 140)		

**Castle Writing Folder Rubric**  
(Grades K-2)

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria	Points	Earned Points
The student has illustrated a title page for the story that includes a title, picture, and the student's name.	20	
The student has illustrated a picture showing the main characters in the story.	20	
The student has illustrated a picture showing the setting of the story.	20	
The student has illustrated a picture showing problem/conflict of the story.	20	
The student has illustrated a picture showing the main events (three) of the story.	60	
The student has illustrated a picture showing how the problem/conflict is solved.	20	
The student has illustrated a picture showing the end of the story.	20	
The student has included a sentence in each illustrated picture (except the title page).	140	
<b>Total Earned Points</b> (Out of 320)		