



Monarch Publishers

Crystal Ball O'Connor, PhD

“Memories, Melodies and Our South Carolina Home”

Audience: Grades 3 and 4

Focus:

Students will strengthen voice in their writing by learning to identify it in what we read and then learning how to apply it to a personal writing piece. Writing lessons are connected to reading, and followed by the practice of using the precise and interesting language needed to strengthen voice in writing. Student work is centered on tracing family histories and values through the music that is shared. Students will be eager to hear the familiar and unfamiliar music in the book, and also excited to share the songs and meaning from their own families.

Suggested Duration:

2- 4 days

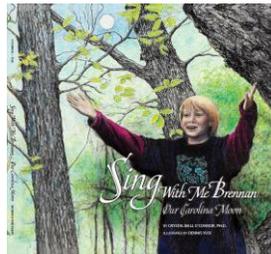
Common Core State Standards Addressed:

3rd Grade: CC.3.RL.1, 2 and 3; CC.3.W.3, 4 and 5; CC.3.SL.1, 2, 3, 4 and 6; CC.3.L.3.a; CC.3.L.5.b; CC.3.L.6

4th Grade: CC.4.RL.1, 2, and 3; CC.4.W.3, 4 and 5; CC.4.SL.1 and 4; CC.4.L.3.a; CC.4.L.5.a; CC.4.L.6

Lesson/Activity:

Prior to reading Sing With Me Brennan - Our Carolina Moon, students discuss the similarities between the writing process an author follows and the writing process they follow. They learn about the characters in the true story they are about to hear, and about the planning, thinking and reading necessary to get ready to write. After hearing the story and singing along with Papa’s tunes; they are asked to tell what Papa cares about most. They generate a list of what Papa cares about. Then students write about someone who sings to them and the special meaning the music has in their lives. Writing skills include describing the character by showing not just telling, using strong verbs, sensory details, and developing meaningful endings. The author emphasizes the important distinction between editing and revising skills.



For the Teachers:

Revision strategies are essential to writing improvement, and most often given the least amount of time in classrooms. In this professional development meeting, teachers are given ideas and suggestions for how to continue to work with revising strategies, strengthening voice, and other writing activities based on Common Core State Standards and The Six Traits of Writing required for the PASS Writing Test.

Supporting Material:

Sing With Me Brennan - Our Carolina Moon, a read along music CD, standards-based teacher guides, and arts-enriched activities, and references for supporting informational text to use in the classroom.

“In this story, the bond between grandfather and grandson grows through music, that magical thing that touches us in ways nothing else can. O’Connor skillfully creates a delightful world of song and love and lessons to last a lifetime. Lyn Riddle, Editor, The Journal.



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