



Sharing Stories

Category: Writing Assignment

Series: Change Makers (12 Authors Who Changed the World)

Supplies

Paper and pencil

Prep

Read *12 Authors Who Changed the World* and visit the corresponding webpage on 12StoryLibrary.com. Prepare to play the clip of Maya Angelou reading “On the Pulse of Morning” and the clip about Hamlet from the “Shakespeare Uncovered” web resources.

Directions

After reading through the book, play the video clips for the students. Explain to the students that many of the authors’ works stem from their own experiences. For example, Sherman Alexie wrote novels about his experiences as a Native American, Maya Angelou wrote autobiographies about her experiences as an African American, and even William Shakespeare wrote plays based on his own grief.

Have the students write one paragraph about each of the following questions, using at least one example from the *12 Authors Who Changed the World* book to support their opinions:

- Why do you think authors write about their experiences?
- How might people benefit from reading about others’ experiences?
- If you wrote about your life, would you write nonfiction, fiction, poetry, or plays? Give three reasons to support your choice.

Evaluation

Did the student present the information in a concise, logical order? Did they use an example from the text in their explanation? Did the students give three reasons to support their choice of genre? Give the students 4 points for each question they answer correctly. RI 4.1: W 4.1

Purpose

To help students refer to details and examples in a text when drawing inferences and explaining what the text says, as well as to help students write opinion pieces in which they support their point of view with reasons and information.