

Title: Journal Writing

Materials:

Copper brads (3 to bind journals)

Brown construction paper (use for cover)

Lined paper (use for inside pages of journal)

Chart paper

Objectives: To have students practice writing in a different perspective as they reflect on activities throughout the unit; To document the experiences on the Klondike Adventure in student journals.

Time: On going

Lesson Description:

1. Introduce journals after creating characters. Gather as a whole group to discuss traits of good writing (focus on good word choice, **voice**, sentence fluency, and conventions). Discuss writing in a different perspective with an emphasis on voice. Ask students what kind of language they think stamperders used back in the late 1800's. Share with them ways to express their ideas of voice (I'm headin' north ta get me some of that there gold!). Share with them some phrases that were indicative of this time in history (Ho for the Klondike! Strike it rich! Stake a claim! etc.). This first journal entry will restate much of what the students explained in their miner's license but with more detail. Students should include the following details in their first entry:

- a. A compelling opening/lead-in
- b. Describe your character
 - i. Interests, family, friends, profession
- c. Tell how you first heard the news that gold was found in the Klondike
- d. Tell how you feel
- e. How do you plan to get to Seattle?
- f. Who are you traveling with?

- g. Why are you going to the goldfields? Tell about pushes & pulls
- h. What are your hopes and goals? What do you plan to do in Dawson?
- i. A good closing

2. Share with them the following example of a first journal entry:

Dear Journal, *February, 1st, 1898*

It's been a whirlwind of a week! Mother and I were listenin' to the radio last week while folding laundry when the regular programming was interrupted with a news report. GOLD was found in the Klondike! The Portland had docked in Seattle with over two tons of gold. Everyone was in a frenzy. People are leavin' their families and quitting their jobs to head north to the goldfields. We're goin' too. I live here in Iowa on a farm with my mom and two sisters. My father passed away recently from an illness. The depression has hit us hard. Mother says she can't afford to pay the bills and the farm is just too much for her to handle. So, she's decided to sell it and use the money to get us to the Klondike! We're really strugglin' without pop. Mother went to town this morning to get us tickets to Seattle. She's not even that excited about finding gold! She's more interested in finding our uncle Henry. He left for the Klondike a few months ago. We haven't heard from him since. We're hoping to find him in Dawson City. Maybe we can work on his claim. Mother plans to stay a while in Dawson. She says that if we can't find Uncle Henry we'll just open up a dress shop and start a new life. Our train leaves tomorrow morning – bright and early. I don't think I'll be able to sleep tonight. I'm much too nervous. I sure hope we strike it rich! I'm sure going to miss our farm Ho for the Klondike! Wish us luck! I'll write again soon.

3. Next, have students share ideas for compelling openings to help get ideas flowing. For example, “I just quit my job! Why? I’m headin’ to the Klondike...Holy Cow! Gold in the Klondike. I’m headin’ north to get me some of that there gold!”

4. You may want to do a shared writing with the whole class at this time to model what expectations before students work independently on their journal entry. Post expectations for students to refer to as they write.
5. Continue to have students write in their journals after each lesson throughout this unit. Students should include facts/details from each lesson (readings and excerpts). Each entry should not only reflect the activity but the experience on the Klondike at each point. Students should use this writing activity as a reflection piece to tell about each leg of the journey.

Here is a list of possible journal entries throughout the unit

1. introduce character/pushes & pulls
2. tell about invention/gimmick
3. shopping for supplies
4. steamboat ride to Skagway
5. arrival into Skagway
6. reasons to take Chilkoot and not White Pass
7. experience up the Chilkoot (obstacle course)
8. making boats at Lake Bennett
9. journey down the Yukon River
10. arrival into Dawson City

Find below samples for each entry:

#2 INVENTION: (do after invention)

What a day! I lay here on a soggy cot in a make-shift hotel with my sisters and mother. I'm exhausted. We worked all day making an invention to sell in Seattle. It's really just another gimmick. We worked to create an automatic gold pan. It can find gold 50 feet below the permafrost and pull it up into the pan. It has a magnet built in it. We're selling it for \$10. If people want two they can get two for a deal – only \$15. We designed an advertisement to help get people interested in buying the product. We need to make a lot of money from our gimmick to help us buy our supplies. I hear a complete outfit can cost up to \$500. Mother didn't get a lot of money for our farm. So, we're here in Seattle trying to sell this thing that we don't even think works. We saw someone on the street today selling evaporated eggs – just another gimmick. It turned out to be just yellow cornmeal. Other people were trying to sell stock in a gopher company claiming that gophers were trained to find gold underground. I don't believe it! There was another group of people

working on a strange invention – an ice bicycle. Crazy idea! But it sure would make our journey easier. Someone even created a cliff climbing boot to make the hike easier. I'm so tired from all our hard work. I sure hope we will sell enough gold pans to make money for our supplies. We'll be back on the streets again tomorrow trying to sell our pans. Wish us luck!

#3 SHOPPING FOR SUPPLIES (do after shopping day)

Mother spent close to \$500 today. All in just one day! We shopped for supplies. We bought....

#4 BOAT RIDE TO SKAGWAY (do after lesson)

This is nothing like I imagined. I'm here on board the Island crammed with hundreds of passengers and pack animals. We're headed for Skagway. I imagined our journey to be more pleasant. However, it's been a nightmare so far. Our journey is off to a rough start. All I hear around me are cries and howls from the horses and dogs below. They crammed the horses below deck. They're so close together that they can't move. They can't even lie down. They're crammed close to the hot engine. I think their yelps are yelps of pain as they are pressed up against the hot engines. The food on board is terrible. The galley only holds 65 people. We're starving! Yesterday our ship ran out of its water supply. We've resorted to drinking ketchup. Our people are dying of thirst! The ship is so crowded that some are standing on the rafters while others sleep on lifeboats. A disgusting stench lurks throughout the ship. I can't escape it. I'm not sure if I can bare another day of this. Although some of my buddies have taken it upon themselves to try and have a good time despite the terrible circumstances. They're holding boxing matches, poker games, sing alongs and exercise classes. Maybe I'll join in tomorrow. I just can't imagine it will help me feel better about this trip. I'm lying here with my piles of supplies exhausted and covered in coal dust. It's layered throughout the ship. I never dreamed in all my life that I would ever do something like this. I can't wait to hit the trails. We arrive in Skagway soon I hope. I'm not sure I can take any more of this. I hope this is the worst of it.

#5 ARRIVAL INTO SKAGWAY

Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse-we arrived into Skagway. Our ship was too big to dock in the canal so we've anchored in the bay. Canoes, rafts, and rowboats are meeting us. The crew is dumping our supplies overboard. I don't think I'll ever find my stuff. They're even dumping horses and pack animals into the icy water forcing them to swim ashore. This is just

the beginning and it doesn't look good. Skagway is a makeshift town filled with muddy roads and white tents. There are rickety shacks that line the streets. I don't think we'll stay here long. We have to find our supplies first. When we do – we're not sticking around here. Every minute wasted is a pan of gold gone! I want to be the first to Dawson. We need to be the first- to find Uncle Henry. So, once we find all of our supplies we're hittin' the trails. Wish us luck!

#6 REASONS TO TAKE THE CHILKOOT PASS (do after debate)

Today we decided to take the Chilkoot Pass. Tomorrow I'll begin my hourney. It's a popular route and much better than white pass. It's a shorter route and has a good rest area called sheep camp. There are road houses, makeshift hotels, and restaurants along the way. That's good news! We can eat for cheap at night after a long days work. I heard that someone carved stairs into the snow. That'll surely make it easier for us to haul our load up the pass. They call it the "Golden Stairs." Unfortunately, the sourdough is charging a toll for people to use it. Another advantage is that I can slide back down the pass to get my next load. Sounds like fun huh? I'm really glad that we agreed to take the Chilkoot. White Pass sounds terrible. It's nicknamed the "Dead Horse Trail" for a reason. Pack animals and horsed lie dead along the way. Roads are blocked with dead animals and it stinks of it, too. There are bandits and thieves along the way. Although it's not as cold as the Chilkoot, it's really steep and dangerous. It's a 2,500 mile walk and if the road is blocked the wait can be deadly. The mudholes are torture- horses die in them. The boulders are deadly, too! But, not as deadly as the blizzards. I sure am glad I'm not taking White Pass. I can't wait to get started and hit the trails. Wish us luck. I'm sure it won't be easy. But, it'll get us that much closer to Dawson. We can't give up now. Add maps after this entry into journals and highlight route to Dawson.

#7 JOURNEY UP THE CHILKOOT PASS (do after obstacle course)

We made our first trip up to the summit today. It was hard work but fun. We're gathered at Sheep Camp eating supper at a make-shift restaurant. Stampeders are milling about everywhere. We've made some new friends. Everyone is so friendly. Well not everyone. I heard a rumor that someone paid a guy \$5 to watch his outfit and upon his return he found some of his stuff gone. There are a lot of conartists around here-ya gotta watch your back. Lots of shady characters wanting to make their wealth before reaching Dawson. Some people have hired Indians to help carry their loads. I wish I had extra money to hire some help. It's a difficult journey. Tomorrow we'll

try and do two trips up the summit. I carried 10 pounds. It'll take me 200 trips to get all 2,000 pounds of supplies up to the summit. Looks like Lake Bennett will be the easy part. We'll have to wait and see.

#8 LAKE BENNETT-MAKING BOATS (do after making boats)

We're at Lake Bennett now. Everywhere you look there are people building boats. It doesn't look easy! I heard that friendships have been ruined here. There's a lot of yelling and cursing – especially by the guys sawing. I'm not looking forward to sawing the logs. I hear that the guy below the platform gets a lot of sawdust in his face and the guy on top gets an aching back and blistered fingers. Where do I want to work? In neither place? They both sound terrible. Most of us here aren't even boat builders. You've got to chop down trees and then saw the logs into planks. I heard one guy got so mad with his partner that they sawed their boat in half and went their separate ways. I sure hope we build quickly so we can get out of this place. Wish us luck! We better get to work. I'll write again soon.

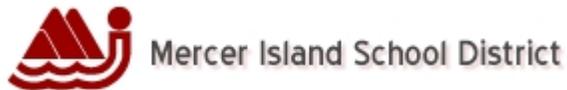
#9 DOWN THE YUKON RIVER

We're taking a rest along the shores of the mighty Yukon River. We've been sailing for days. We're surrounded by thousands of other prospectors also racing for Dawson city. Today we saw a man get caught in a whirlpool. He was there for a while. I sure hope he's okay. The rapids are rough and rocks are hidden in the river. Many boats have broken apart into splinters. There are many prospectors lining the shore mending their boats and drying their supplies in the sun. I feel so sad for those who lost everything. If I see another man stranded I think I may invite him to join me. I'd be happy to share my supplies with someone in need. I could sure use a friend. I thought this part of our journey would be easy. But, it's terrifying! There are whirlpools and rapids everywhere. I sure hope we make it to Dawson.

#10 ARRIVAL INTO DAWSON

We finally made it! We're in Dawson after weeks on our boat. It's nothing like I expected. Rivers of mud for streets. People on the brink of starvation while others die of typhoid fever. All claims have been staked. There are thousands of people everywhere. Earlier today I listened to a guy read from an old newspaper (he bought it from a newcomer for \$15). We all had to pay \$1 each to listen. I think this guy was smart to make his money the easy way. Another guy is selling eggs near our tent for \$18 a dozen. People on a diet of beans are willing to spend \$18 for a dozen eggs. It's a luxury! I'm not

sure what I'll do. I think I'll stay in Dawson with my family for a little while. We start our search for Uncle Henry tomorrow. Mother is looking into starting up a dress shop. I'd hate to go home now – especially after all our hard work. I'm not sure how much longer our supplies will last. It sure isn't what I expected! Finding gold won't be easy!



Klondike Travel Timeline

Phase 1: By ship from Seattle to Skagway or Dyea:
10 days

Phase 2: Hiking either the Chilkoot or White Pass Trails with one ton
of provisions:
3 months

Phase 3: Build a boat in Bennett, British Columbia:
2 months

Phase 4: Travel by boat down the Yukon River to Dawson City,
Yukon Territory:
14 days

Total time spent travelling: approximately 5-6 months