

Writing Fundamentals

Publishing: Adding a Cover and Title



Rationale:

Publishing allows students the opportunity to enhance their finished pieces and prepare them for readers.

Preparation:

- Line all the books in the collection up so that students can view the covers.
- Chart paper titled, “Things We Noticed about Book Covers and Titles”
- Memoir pieces
- Assorted papers, markers, pens, and mentor texts for book design
- Copies of “Making My Memoir Appealing” (see Appendix 1)
- “Ways to Celebrate” (see Appendix 2)

Teaching:

Inform

Each author we have read in this unit imagined their writing would make a great book. Part of what a writer does once they have finished their writing is consider how they will get readers to read it. One way is by creating a cover illustration and adding a title to their piece.

Present

The first thing we see when we look at a book is the cover and the title. The cover usually contains an illustration meant to grab the reader’s attention. The titles often let the reader know what the book is about and tries to spark a connection, interest, or curiosity. Let’s look at some of the ways our memoir authors made their books look inviting to readers. *Call students’ attention to the memoir collection.* What do you notice about the cover illustrations of these books? *Collect students’ responses on a chart.* What do you notice about the titles? *Continue to collect responses.*

Engage

Take a moment to reread your finished piece. Then talk to the person next to you about your ideas for cover illustrations and title possibilities.

Reiterate

Writers want to think about ways to captivate their audience and get them interested in their writing. Covers and interesting titles are one way to do that. *Give students copies of Appendix 1 to support their work.*

Conference Questions:

- What finishing touches did you include to make your book complete?
- Why do you think this title will interest readers?

Extensions:

Students can add other finishing touches to appeal to a reader, such as a dedication or an “About the Author” paragraph.

Appendix 1:

“Making My Memoir Appealing”

Appendix 2:

“Ways to Celebrate”



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Making My Memoir Appealing

The Title

- Is my title creative? _____

- Does it catch attention? _____

- Does it make someone want to read my book? _____

- Does it make readers curious so they will want to know more? _____

- How can I write the title (color, font, size) so that it will be inviting to readers? _____

The Cover

- Does my cover look inviting? _____

- If I saw this cover, would I want to pick up this book and read it? _____

- Is my cover related to my memoir? _____

- Does my cover add to my memoir writing by expanding on a memory in the text? _____

Ways to Celebrate

- Stage a reading of students' work.
- Host an "Author Talk" performed by the students about their work.
- Invite a local memoir author to come speak.
- Create a school bulletin board with memoir writing.

