Library Lesson Plan: Frogs In Fact and Fiction

Grades 2-3

1. Review the difference between fiction (made-up stories) and nonfiction (informational books). Announce that some books may have the same subjects but be either fiction or nonfiction, and that you are going to read books about frogs that are fiction AND nonfiction and compare each one to see similarities and differences in what you learn.

2. Start by reading and sharing “Days With Frog and Toad” (or other Frog and Toad books) by Arthur Lobel. (This title is available on Hoopla through the library so you can share on your Smart Board or projector screen.)

3. Discuss how these are fictional stories about made-up characters. However, the characters are based on real-life animals of frogs and toads.

4. Now read a few nonfiction books about frogs and toads.

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5. After reading, take notes as a class about how Frog and Toad in the story are different and alike from the frogs and toads in the nonfiction books.
6. Use these notes to write a Single Paragraph Outline (SPO), including a topic sentence and concluding sentence. You can create an SPO for differences only, similarities only, or differences AND similarities. Use the SPO template from The Writing Revolution, below, and at https://www.thewritingrevolution.org/.
7. An SPO for this might be something like:

Topic sentence: Frog and Toad are very different from the toads and frogs introduced in nonfiction books!

- First: F&T wear clothes; real frogs and toads do not
- Second: F&T live in a house; real frogs and toads live outdoors in ponds and forests
- Third: F&T speak English words; real frogs and toads communicate but not in words

Concluding sentence: Frog and Toad are more like real people than frogs and toads you would find in nature.

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8. You can keep the SPO as an outline or ask the class to write the full paragraph using their notes.

Find this and other writing templates at https://www.thewritingrevolution.org/

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