

Toy Stories

Serena Robertson, Kennesaw Mountain Writing Project

Grade Level: 6-12 and teachers

Overview: Students will write about their favorite toy from their childhood and compose descriptive writing to describe the toy, their memories of it, and to explain why they found the toy to be so special.

Materials: Paper and pens or devices

Time: Varies. This could be given as a warm up activity during the start of class, as a part of a mini-lesson or as an in-class assignment.

Instructional Sequence:

1. Brainstorm a list of favorite toys from childhood.
2. Quick Write: Students will create a list of words that describes their favorite toy from childhood and their memories of it (students may use a toy from the list created by the class or they may choose one of their own).
3. Instruct students to use their list of descriptive words to write another quick write that uses descriptive language to describe their favorite toy and to explain why they found the toy to be so special.
4. Next, students can shift their focus to writing about a toy that they always wanted, but didn't have. They can describe why they wanted the toy and how it made them feel to not get it. They can also write about how they currently feel about not getting the toy.
5. Students can peer-share their writing and discuss the difference between the craft of their writing and how word choice matters.

Comments & Extension: Teachers can write and share with their students. To extend this the focus can be switched from their personal item to a character's favorite item, a location, a certain year, an historical event etc. This has a variety of options available that will help to keep students engaged and writing! BE CREATIVE!