

Project 3: Original Riddle Essay

What Toy Am I? The Riddle Paragraph

Overview of Creative Essay

Many people enjoy reading riddles. Did you know that you can write a riddle paragraph?

A riddle paragraph is one in which you give hints in your paragraph about the answer to your riddle--but you do this in a certain order so that your reader cannot guess the answer right off the bat.

Doesn't that sound like a fun paragraph to write? You will be directed in this step-by-step, so don't worry! I will help you learn how to write a fun riddle paragraph.

I. TOPIC OF ESSAY

You will write an informative riddle about one or two toys:

- A. Teddy Bear
- B. Barbie Doll
- C. Action Figure
- D. Etch-A-Sketch
- E. Slinky Dog
- F. Mr. Potato Head
- G. Lego mini-figure
- H. Playmobil figure
- I. RC car
- J. Lincoln log
- K. Other

II. NUMBER OF PARAGRAPHS IN THE BODY OF YOUR ESSAY

- A. **Basic** students will write 1 paragraph for the body.
- B. **Extensions*** students will write 2 paragraphs for the body (two different riddles/two different characters).

III. SENTENCES PER PARAGRAPH

- A. **Basic** students will write 4-6 sentences per paragraph.
- B. **Extension** students will write 5-7 sentences per paragraph.

IV. OPENING PARAGRAPH

Students will not write an **Opening Paragraph**.

V. CLOSING PARAGRAPH

Students will not write a **Closing Paragraph**

VI. ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- A. Brainstorming
- B. Researching

Note: This Overview Box, which is provided at the beginning of each assignment, is here to give students (and teachers) an at-a-glance look at the entire composition project. Each step of each lesson is assigned and detailed throughout the week(s).

*Extensions are older or more advanced writing students who can handle more paragraphs and/or sentences.

Lesson A. Choose Your Toy and Brainstorm

<> **A-1.** Choose a toy (or **two for Extension**) from the Overview Box provided for this lesson. Choose one that you enjoy learning about and that you think you can stump somebody with using guessing-game clue sentences! Write your toy's (or two) name on the line.

(1) _____

(2) **Extension:** _____

<> **A-2.** Take a look at the Sample Brainstorming Box (Sample Box A-2) provided.

Sample Brainstorming Box

Not cuddly	Made of plastic (1)
Human-like figure (4)	Many different body colors
Does not contain metal	Cannot be used to draw (2)
Has a yellow face (6)	Cannot stretch (3)
Does not contain wood	Not remote-controlled
Comes apart (5)	

Sample Box A-2

<> **A-3.** Brainstorm and write characteristics, attributes, funny things, etc., about the toy you chose (in A-1) in the Brainstorming Boxes provided (Box for A-3).

- (1) Just write anything you can think of.
- (2) Don't worry about whether you will use it or not.
- (3) Jot down things even if you don't know that much about that tidbit since you will be researching in the next lesson.
- (4) **Extension:** Repeat these steps for a second riddle toy.

**Brainstorming Box
for Toy**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Box A-3

**Brainstorming Box--Extension
for Toy**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Box A-3

Lesson B. Research Your Toy(s)

<> **B-1.** Highlight or underline things that you wrote in your Brainstorming Box that you are unsure of or that you need more information about in order to write a sentence.

<> **B-2.** With your teacher's help or permission, look up your toy in an online source or find information in order to write a sentence about it.

(1) Look for more information about the tidbits you already have, if needed.

(2) Add all of this to your **Brainstorming Box(es)** (Box A-3).

(3) You will need six to ten pieces of information for each toy/each box, according to your teacher's instructions.

(4) **Extension** students should do this for both toys you chose.

Lesson C. Composition: Write Sentences

<> **C-1.** Look at the Sample Sentences provided (Student Sample Box C-1).

1. I am part of a larger set.
2. I am not human-like.
3. I am not remote-controlled.
4. I do not draw.
5. I am named after a president.
6. I am made of wood.

Student Sample Box C-1

<> **C-2.** Work in your Brainstorming Box(es) to get ready to write your four to seven guessing sentences by doing the following (Box A-3).

- (1) Highlight all of the information that you think you will want to use in your sentences.
- (2) Put a number beside each piece of information:
 - a. Put a #1 beside the information that is the least obvious--the information that you can put in a sentence at first that will stump your reader. (You don't want your reader to guess your toy with the first sentence!)
 - b. Put a #2 beside the next least obvious (next to the hardest clue)
 - c. Repeat these steps for each piece of information.
- (3) **Extension:** Repeat these steps for another paragraph/toy.
- (4) See the numbers in the Sample Box A-2.

<> **C-3.** Write your sentence on the lines provided following these instructions:

- (1) Using your hardest clue (the one you put a #1 beside), write a complete sentence on Line One.
- (2) Write as though you are that toy--say *I, me, we, etc.* (See First Person Writing--Box C-3 provided.)
 - a. For example, don't say, *He is male.*
 - b. For example, do say, *I am a male.*
- (3) Using your next hardest clue (the one you put a #2 beside), write a complete sentence on Line Two.
- (4) Continue in this manner.
- (5) Write as many sentences as you have notes for or as many sentences as your teacher assigned you.
- (6) **Extension:** Repeat these steps for another paragraph/toy.
- (7) See the Student Sample Box C-1.

First Person Writing

*You will write your paragraph(s) in the first person.

- (1) You will be the toy in your paragraph!
- (2) You will be your plaything!
- (3) You will use first person words like those listed below:

I	me	my
mine	we	us
ours		

Box C-3

Your Riddle Sentences for Toy 1

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

SAMPLE

Note: You may not use all of these lines.

Extension--Your Riddle Sentences for Toy 2

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

SAMPLE

Note: You may not use all of these lines.

Lesson D. Composition: Write a Paragraph

<> D-1. Read the two sample paragraphs provided (Sample Box for D-1).

Sample Riddle

I am made of plastic. I am human-like. Parts of me move. I must be put together. I am male. I am named after a food item. You probably can guess by now that I am Mr. Potato Head.

Sample Box for D-1

Sample Riddle

I pull apart easily. I am made of plastic. However, I am also made of metal. My name references an action. I am an animal. I am not fluffy. By now, you have probably identified me as Slinky Dog.

Sample Box for D-1

<> D-2. On the lines provided, write your sentences in paragraph form.

- (1) Write your first sentence first. (Be sure you indent a finger space or two to show that it is a paragraph.)
- (2) Right where your first sentence ends, after your period, leave a tiny space and write your next sentence.
- (3) Keep doing this with all of your sentences, making a nice, neat paragraph (not a line of sentences).
- (4) At the very end, add a sentence that tells who your toy is, such as *By now, you probably guessed that I am a Lincoln log!*
- (5) **Extension:** Repeat these steps for another paragraph/toy.

Lesson A. Study Skills/Prewriting: Create Descriptive Paragraph House Outline

Over the next week, you will be writing a descriptive paragraph about a plush toy or doll. You will write a descriptive essay. That is, you will describe the plush toy's or doll's appearance.

- <> **A-1.** Choose a plush toy or doll that either you already know about or that you would like to learn about. Since you will be writing about its physical traits, you might want to write about a plush toy or doll that you have or have seen.

Write your plush toy or doll on the line. _____

- <> **A-2.** Read the Sample Descriptive Paragraph House Outline provided (Sample Box A-2).

- <> **A-3.** Read the Sample Descriptive Paragraph provided (Sample Box A-3).

When you write descriptively, you want to try to include as many of the senses as you can. Consider the following traits when you write -- and list them in your Paragraph House squares as shown in the sample.

- a. See -- What the plush toy or doll looks like, size, color, marks, etc.
- b. Feel -- Scaly, soft, bristle-like, furry, smooth, human, plastic, metal, etc.
- c. Hear -- Sounds the plush toy or doll makes -- when you move or squeeze it
- d. Smell -- Cleanliness, strange odors, musty, etc.

- <> **A-4.** Fill in My Descriptive Paragraph House at the level directed by your teacher. Use the sample provided to see how to do this. You will add an Opening Sentence and a Closing Sentence note to your Paragraph House later.

Sample Descriptive Paragraph House Outline

<p>Closing Sentence (later): Sam--my teddy bear--favorite plush toy/doll</p>	
<p>See</p> <p>Brown fur with lighter brown paws</p>	<p>See</p> <p>Cute black eyes and nose with smiling black thread mouth</p>
<p>Feel</p> <p>Soft fur Covers harder plastic eyes/nose</p>	<p>Hear or Smell</p> <p>Squishing noise when pressed Smells like familiar and musty home scent</p>
<p>Opening Sentence (later): My favorite plush toy/doll = my teddy bear Sam</p>	

Sample Box A-2

Paragraph Topic
My teddy bear Sam

Sample Descriptive Paragraph From Paragraph House Outline

My favorite plush toy or doll is my teddy bear Sam. He has brown fur with lighter brown cloth under his paws. His eyes and nose are small and black, and his smiling mouth is made of black thread. Sam's fur is soft and cuddly and covers most of his hard plastic eyes and nose. He makes a squishing noise when softly squeezed. He smells like the familiar and musty scent of home. indeed, my teddy bear Sam is my favorite plush toy or doll.

Sample Box A-3

SAMPLE

My Paragraph House Outline--Basic

Closing Sentence (later):

Paragraph Topic
|

See

See

Feel

Hear or Smell

Opening Sentence (later): _____
