

Building A City of Stories

WEEK ONE:

- Writing Workshop: writing about self during a transition.

WEEK TWO:

- Read and study *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman. (YA novel in which immigrants in a neighborhood find common ground by building a community garden.)
- Writing Workshop: first-person narrative.

WEEK THREE:

- Introduction to book arts, with visiting artist Jeannie Hunt.
- Read and study *Madlenka* by Peter Sis. (Picturebook in which a young girl walks around her city block and meets neighbors from many lands.)
- *United Neighbors* game. Build Planetary Passport booklet and conduct mini-interviews of people from other countries. In-class mini-interviews with ESL students.
- Watch *El Norte* video.

WEEK FOUR:

- Interview techniques that encourage storytelling.
- Practice interviews with classroom guests.
- Finding images in the text. Make illustrations from *Seedfolks* and from practice interviews.

WEEK FIVE:

- Generate final list of questions.
- Conduct final interviews (30-45 minutes).
- Build book structures for final project.
- Library research about country and culture of origin.

WEEK SIX:

- Writing Workshop. In-class writing exercises and peer feedback:
 - First person narrative in the immigrant's voice
 - First person narrative in the voice of an object
 - "I am from..." poem
 - Free-verse poetry
 - Imaginary letter written to family or friends back home

WEEK SEVEN:

- Dividing text and thumbnail sketches.
- Full-size storyboards to plan layout of house book and road book.
- Choose media for text and illustrations.
- Write front and back matter: title page, about the country and interview, and author blurb.

WEEK EIGHT:

- Final art work and text in books.
- Connect books to create "city of stories" and peer feedback.