

Unit Guide

Digital Storytelling in the Content Areas for Special Needs Learners

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This unit consists of writing mini-lessons designed for a small group of fourth grade students with special needs in writing. The unit uses iPad applications including Inspiration Maps, iMovie, Book Creator, and Puppet Pals to provide support for special needs students to assist them with narrative writing. The writing mini-lessons require students to write narratives which reinforce fourth grade science and social studies content. Students will create a narrative using iMovie from the perspective of a water droplet describe its journey through the water cycle, a historical diary from the perspective of a character living during the Revolutionary War, and a Puppet Pals skit detailing the adaptations that a crayfish uses to survive in its environment. The structure behind the writing mini-lessons can be applied to any science or social studies content that a teacher wishes to reinforce in their classroom.