

Teacher Tool 750: Program Guide for The Power of Story in a Short Story

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The Power of Story in a Short Story

Program Date: November 14, 2019

Program Time: 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. Central Time

Grade Levels: 9-12

Program Description:

Ron Austin's Nilsen Prize winning debut collection of short stories, "Avery Colt is a Snake, a Thief, and a Liar," was published in October 2019. Be part of the conversation as he reads selections from his work and answers student questions about where his story ideas come from, his process as a writer, and related topics. To learn more about Mr. Austin, check out his website at <https://www.ronaustin.com>.

Guest Experts: Ron Austin—author of "Avery Colt is a Snake, a Thief, and a Liar"

Program Objectives:

1. The participant will interact with an author of short stories and other forms of fiction writing.
2. The participant will explore the processes involved in developing, writing, editing, and publishing a story.
3. The participant will engage in critical thinking and creative thinking.

Program Format:

The agenda below provides you the topics to be explored in the program as well as the order of that exploration. Student questions will be woven in throughout the program.

I. Welcome and Introduction—Student groups and experts are introduced and welcomed to the program and given information on ways to interact during the program.

II. Meeting the Author—Students will interact with Ron Austin to learn about his background, the publication of his first collection of linked stories, and hear an excerpt from one of his stories.

III. Exploring the Writing Process—The conversation will continue with more exploration of Mr. Austin's recently published short story collection, "Avery Colt is a Snake, a Thief, and a Liar: and with conversation on the writing process in general, the nature of short story as a form of fiction as compared to other forms, Mr. Austin's personal writing process, and what it means to be a "storyteller." Students will be able to ask questions and offer their comments.

IV. Summary and Closing—We summarize the major concepts learned and respond to final questions from students.

Pre-Program Activity Suggestions:

These activities could be done prior to participation in the live program to help students develop questions for the program guest.

1. Learn About the Author and the Book—Use the web resources below to learn about Mr. Austin and his recently published collection of linked stories, "Avery Colt is a Snake, a Thief, A Liar."

<https://www.ronaaustin.com>--Ron Austin's website

<https://medium.com/the-coil/do-it-yourself-an-excerpt-from-avery-colt-is-a-snake-a-thief-a-liar-ron-a-austin-dcf46b32b77e>--An excerpt from the short story collection. Before sending your students to this excerpt or to read other excerpts they may find from the book, please read them yourself as well to be aware of some language used in the stories.

<https://hecmedia.org/posts/not-so-late-night-featuring-nana-kwame-adjei-brenyah-chaya-bhuvaneswar-and-ron-austin>--View a short interview with the author and see him read excerpts from his writings that are featured in the first 15 minutes of this program.

2. What Questions Would You Like to Ask? Based on their learning through the resources above, have students develop questions they'd like to ask Mr. Austin during the program. Select what your class considers the most important questions to ask and send no more than five questions to us in an e-mail no later than November 7.

We'll go through all the advance questions we receive to determine which ones can be included in the program then get back in touch with you no later than November 12 to let you know if one or more of your questions has been selected for inclusion in the program. If you are joining us via Zoom, Skype, or a similar videoconference connection, we will call on your school by name so you can ask your question. If you are watching online, we'll ask your question for you and include the name of your school.

Please e-mail the questions to us at info@educate.today no later than November 7. Be sure to title your e-mail "Questions for Ron Austin" and be sure to include the name and location of your school along with the questions.

Featured National Standards:

Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts—Literacy

RI.9-10.3: Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events, including the order in which the points are made, how they are introduced and developed, and the connections that are drawn between them.

RI.9-10.6: Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance that point of view or purpose.

RL.9-10.5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it, and manipulate time create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

Common Core Standards for English/Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Reading

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Writing

6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

ISTE National Technology Standards

- 3a—Students plan and employ effective research strategies to locate information and other resources for their intellectual or creative pursuits.
- 3b—Students evaluate the accuracy, perspective, credibility and relevance of information, media, data or other resources.
- 3d—Students build knowledge by actively exploring real-world issues and problems, developing ideas and theories and pursuing answers and solutions.