

## Cave Painting Short Story

This assignment has two main parts. First, you will create your own cave painting. Second, you will use that cave painting as a prompt for writing an original short story.

**Step 1: Create your own Cave Painting.** In class project

**Step 2: Brainstorming.** Closely examine your cave painting. Imagine that it is on the wall of a cave.

Take a lined piece of paper and divide it into three sections. This will be your "Brainstormer."

- Consider how the painting could have come to be on the wall of a cave? In the first section of your Brainstormer, make a list of possibilities.
- Consider what the animals and figures on the painting represent? In the second section of your Brainstormer, make a list of possibilities.
- Consider how the painting was discovered thousands of years after it was made. Make a list of possibilities.

**Step 3: Prewriting.** Look at your Brainstormer. What on your list intrigues you? About what would you like to write a story? Remember that the topic you choose must lend itself to a short story that meets all the requirements listed below and on the reverse of this page.

Your short story must tell about **one** of the following:

- **How the cave painting came to be** or
- **What the animals or figures on the painting represent** or
- **How the painting was discovered**

**Step 4: Writing your short story.** Write a fictional short story that is inspired by your cave painting. Remember that good imaginative writing is creative and original. It can also be suspenseful, humorous, or fantastical. Your story can be realistic, but it need not be bound entirely by reality. Remember that much about how cave paintings were made and what they mean remains unknown. You are, however, bound by the facts that we have learned in class about Early Humans and cave discoveries. In other words, this is not about lions taking up paint brushes and expressing their artistic talents or aliens from Mars invading the earth! This is about early humans creating art. But "how" and "why"? That's where you come in...

Your short story must also include **all** of the following:

- 500-1000 words, typed double-spaced (approx 2-4 pages)
- Setting: Where and when is your story taking place?
- Character: Who is your main character (protagonist)? Who or what works against your main character (antagonist)? What are your characters like? What do they look like? What do they think and feel? How do others feel about them? Keep in mind that not all of your characters need to be human.
- Dialogue: Include at least two examples of properly punctuated dialogue. This means that someone is talking to someone in your story...at least twice!
- Plot: A short story, especially one *this* short, should have one main plot line. Decide how the sequence of events in your short story will progress before you begin writing.
- Conflict: What types of conflict will be in your short story? Will you have one central conflict or several smaller conflicts? Remember conflicts can be internal as characters struggle with their consciences or their limitations **or** external as characters struggle with other characters, the forces of nature, expectations of society or a fate that is difficult to change.
- Point of View: How will you tell your story? Will you write in First Person using "I" and "me" or will you be an Omniscient Narrator who is an all-knowing outsider who is observing the action and can enter the minds of one or all of the characters? Choose a point of view and stick with it.
- Mood: What is the feeling you are trying to create (humorous, serious, mysterious, magical, etc.)? How will your use of language match the content and purpose of your short story? How should your readers feel at the end of the short story? Remember that the ideas you present and the words you choose will create the overall mood of your story so take care when selecting all of the features listed above.

As is true for all major writing assignments, your short story will be evaluated on each of the writing criteria: Ideas & Content, Organization, Conventions, Sentence Fluency, Word Choice, and Voice.

*Make sure you keep the Brainstormer and all drafts of your short story. You will be required to submit these along with your final draft. Be prepared to make multiple drafts and to submit your work for peer and adult review.*

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

Cave Painting in Class Art Project \_\_\_\_\_

Create Brainstormer in Class \_\_\_\_\_

Computer Lab Time is Scheduled for \_\_\_\_\_

Peer Edit to take place in Class on \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Edit due by \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL DRAFT due on \_\_\_\_\_