



Introduction to Text Message

Lesson Plan



Learning Objective

Students will be able to create their own original text message conversation based on a prompt.

Note: Use this lesson to introduce Bursts to students and build engagement and confidence in writing.

Suggested Time

25 minutes

Supporting Materials

- Text Message Samples
- Text Message Anchor Chart



Technology Used

Students: TenMarks Bursts (Text Message)

Teacher: Demo Student account

Name the Focus (1 minute)

Tell students they will learn to use Bursts to produce text message conversations as a way to have fun with writing and generate ideas.

Connection (4 minutes)

Project one of the Text Message Samples. Read the prompt aloud and ask for two volunteers to read the conversation, assigning each one of side of the dialogue (denoted by blue or green bubbles). Encourage students to read with expression to bring the characters and story to life.

Discuss (Group)

Tell students one writer wrote both sides of this “story.” Ask students what they thought of reading a short story like this and how it compares to text message conversations they’ve had or seen.

Instruction (5 minutes)

Explain

Tell students that writing text message conversations based on a prompt is like creating a play or a short story that two characters act out through dialogue. They will need to be creative to bring their story to life. Ask them what makes for good dialogue in a story. Emphasize the importance of putting themselves in someone else’s shoes and using expressive language to engage the reader.

Model

Log in to TenMarks Writing and go to the Demo Student account. Select a Text Message prompt from the Burst Topics tab, such as “Write texts between an apple and an orange” (under Food). Tell students that you will be writing quickly, so you won’t worry about spelling, punctuation, or perfecting your phrases.

Write both sides of the dialogue. Think aloud about what the characters must be feeling, and use exclamations or expressive language (e.g., “Ayyyyy!”). Wrap up your text message conversation with a clear ending.

Note: Try to make mistakes in your example so that students see it is okay to make errors and that the focus is on telling a creative story from two perspectives, not on language mechanics.

Explain

Project the Text Message Anchor Chart. Review the DOs and DON’Ts as a class, adjusting or adding any norms that students think are appropriate for the class writing community.

Application (12 minutes)

Practice

Tell students they will now write their own text message story. Have them log in to TenMarks Writing and go to the Bursts prompts menu. Have them choose a prompt such as “Write texts between a grape and a raisin.”

Note: If you do not have enough computers, have students write in a writing notebook.

Have students write for about five minutes. Tell students it is okay to briefly plan their conversation, but they should get started within a minute or so. Circulate and encourage students to follow the norms of text message conversations from the class DOs and DON’Ts anchor chart.

Discuss (Partners)

Have students read their conversation aloud to a partner. Have the partner share a compliment and then switch roles.

If Students	Then
Focus on spelling or grammar, asking how to spell words or trying to fix them	Remind them that spelling and grammar don’t matter at this point. They should keep writing.
Delete or backspace a lot	Suggest that they pretend that the delete or backspace buttons don’t exist.
Stop writing or hesitate	Encourage them to just keep writing, and remind them of the strategies you used. Pose questions to help them regain momentum: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How are your characters feeling? How can you show it?• What is something unexpected that can happen right now?

Finish early	Tell them there's no such thing as finishing early with Bursts. Have them select another prompt, or write a different version of the text message conversation with the same prompt.
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Closure (2 to 3 minutes)

Discuss (Group)

Ask the class to share their ideas about how it felt to write text message conversations:

- What did you like about it?
- What was tricky?
- When might you want to use this kind of Burst?

Highlight the observations that text message conversations can be written as a mental warm up, a way to practice writing dialogue, or just for fun! Encourage students to log in to write Bursts on their own.

Note: This first introduction to text message conversations is intended to spark students' interest. Consider revisiting text message conversations later to support instruction in narrative writing (e.g., having students illustrate a conflict or build suspense through dialogue).

Text Message Samples

Write texts between Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf

Tell both sides of the story.



Hi, Little Red! Remember me?

Are you serious? Of course I remember you! You're the WOLF that kidnapped my grandmother and tried to eat me!!!

Yeah, about that...

What about it?

I wanted to say I'm sorry. But the cookies you baked smelled so delicious. What was I supposed to do?

Grrr.....

I mean, I'm really, really sorry. What can I do to make it up to you?

Well, now that you put it that way, my friend Goldilocks told me that the Three Bears have some great porridge at their house. Can you help me get some?

Of course! On my way over!

Thanks, see you in a min!

Text Message Samples

Write texts between an apple and an orange

Tell both sides of the story.



Hey there, O.

hey

What are you up to today?

Not sure, exactly. Think I'll start with a cut and a peel. Then we'll see from there.

Cool. I think I'll probably get a peel as well. Then maybe go for a dip in some peanut butter.

Have you thought about pie?

Nah, too hot for that.

You're probably right. I'm hoping to finish the day with a cool glass of fresh squeezed juice.

Sweet.

 **Text Message**
Anchor Chart

DOs	DON'Ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Be creative! Have fun! Think of interesting ways to tell a story.● Put yourself in the place of your characters; think about what they do or don't like.● Use exclamations and expressive language (for example, "Oof!" or "Ayeeee!") to make your characters come to life.● Use respectful, appropriate language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Focus on spelling or grammar.● Judge your ideas or worry about whether they are "good enough." Write your ideas down.● Delete or cross out your work.