

## How to Be Human Curriculum Guide

Introduce students to journal writing, using book as model for different narrative strategies.

Standard topics:

Writing as thinking, how writing is a tool for understanding

Writing as emotional release, how writing about something can help you feel better

Writing as communication, how writing can show other people how you think and feel

Objective:

To inspire students to write and draw in their own journals

To model different ways to communicate through words and pictures.

Key Terms/Concepts:

Dialogue

Charts/Measurement

Description

Emotions/Feelings

Part One: Modeling Journal Writing and Drawing

Have students read pages from *How to Be Human*, then discuss what Florida is trying to convey in those pages. How does she get across her message? What devices does she use?

Part Two: Writing and Drawing

Have students write in their own journals/notebooks. Possible writing prompts are:

1. Use a chart to show how you measure a certain experience or thing, as Florida does in her chart of Bad Kid Behavior or Small Bad Things to Big Bad Things.

2. Use dialogue bubbles to describe a situation.

Write a descriptive paragraph about the same situation.

Compare/contrast the two pages. Which works better? Which is the most interesting, the most expressive? Why?

3. Convey a feeling in your writing.

Write about a time when you were sad and try to make the reader feel your sadness.

Write about a time when you were angry and try to make the reader feel your rage.

How can you show emotions in your writing? What gives a description or dialogue a sense of happiness, anger, sadness, or boredom?

4. Word Pictures

Draw a series of words so that the words look like what they mean, the way Florida does with her word pictures, like the word “sun” with yellow rays coming out of it or the word “Dark” with a black background. Have fun giving the words visual personalities!