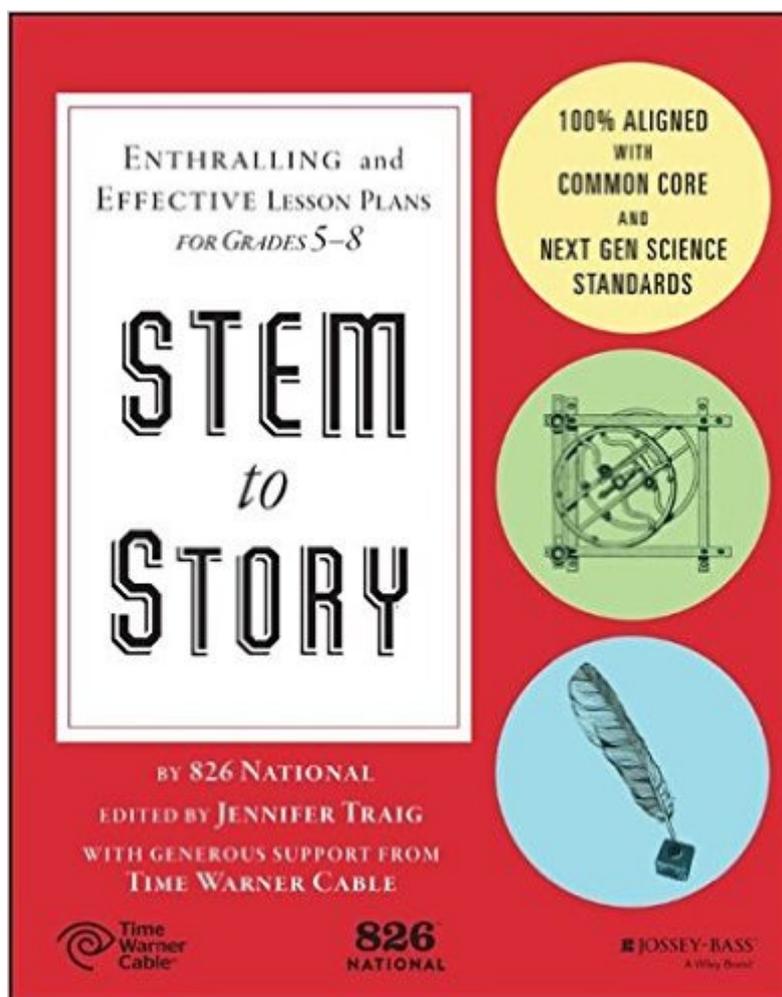


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# STEM To Story: Enthralling And Effective Lesson Plans For Grades 5-8



## Synopsis

Bring STEM to life for students with zombies, rockets, celebrities, and more STEM to Story: Enthralling and Effective Lesson Plans for Grades 5-8 inspires learning through fun, engaging, and meaningful lesson plans that fuse hands-on discovery in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) with creative writing. The workshop activities within the book are the innovative result of a partnership between 826 National's proven creative writing model and Time Warner Cable's Connect a Million Minds, an initiative dedicated to connecting young people to the wonders of STEM through hands-on learning. Authentically aligned with both the Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards, this book provides teachers, after-school and out-of-school providers, and parents with field-tested lessons, workshops, and projects designed by professionals in each field. Including reflective observations by arts and science celebrities like Jon Scieszka, Mayim Bialik, and Steve Hockensmith, lessons feature bonus activities, fun facts, and teaching points for instructors at every level. These quirky, exploratory lessons will effectively awaken student imaginations and passions for both STEM and creative writing, encourage identity with scientific endeavors, and make both science and writing fun. Grades five through eight is the critical period for engaging students in STEM, and this book is designed specifically to appeal to and engage this age group. The guided curricula fosters hands-on discovery, deep learning, and rich inquiry skills while feeling more like play than school, and has proven popular and effective with both students and teachers. Awaken student imagination and get them excited about STEM Fuse creative writing with STEM using hands-on activities Make scientific principles relevant to students' lives Inspire students to explore STEM topics further The demand for STEM workers is closely linked to global competitiveness, and a successful future in STEM depends upon an early introduction to the scientific mindset. The challenge for teachers is to break through students' preconceptions of STEM fields as "hard" or "boring," to show them that STEM is everywhere, it's relevant, and it's loads of fun. For proven lesson plans with just a dash of weird, STEM to Story is a dynamic resource, adaptable and applicable in school, after school, and at home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a homeschooler, I am so excited to use this resource, or at least as much of it as possible. It's clearly written for a classroom teacher, so teachers should feel comfortable knowing that instructions for teaching large numbers of students are neatly delineated. There are materials lists (nothing too outrageous or expensive), time required, lesson plans, take-home worksheets for extra enrichments, conversations starters, writing assignments, graphs, charts, games, and an unbelievable amount of fun for science learning. There will be prep work required for each of the sessions, so it's not the "open-and-go" format preferred by some. However, the sessions seem well worth it. Homeschoolers should note that much of this will need adapting if you plan to do it with only one or 2 children, and some of it may simply be impossible to do. The final session, the "Zombie Apocalypse" that teaches everything from engineering to disease to statistics to probability, seems to me to be impossible to adapt to a single student. Quite a shame, because it's a long session and looks like a great one. You could maybe do bits and pieces of some of it, but some of the work on infection depends on having large groups of people. One of the coolest things about the book is the way it spans multiple disciplines, but I don't know if English teachers and science teachers work together much, or if science teachers want to be assigning creative fiction work as part of their classes. As a homeschooler, I think this interdisciplinary work is fantastic, but if it's a pain in a school setting, you've been warned.

Marian Jackson-Scott In *Stem to Story*, a very unique presentation of science is shared. The book is clearly organized into 12 lesson plan chapters. First, the book provided a thorough background on STEM and gave a science glossary for the user to better understand the context of the book. In other words, parents would be able to follow the book to help their children with science achievement. In my opinion, *STEM to Story* built momentum for the reader to clearly visualize what

was going on in the lessons. In Lesson 1, the authors approached the scientific method in a more 21st century learning style. Instead of rote facts/memorization, the authors focused on discoveries. The black box assignment gave the students an opportunity to reflect. It is ubiquitous throughout the book that all of the lessons were evident of project based learning and higher order thinking skills. The book provided an interdisciplinary connection between science, math, and writing. In my 18 years as an educator, this is one of the best presentations of an effective science and English connection. In this book, students are able to look at engineering as a field. This is a great way of engaging students in engineering. As the research points out that there is a severe shortage of engineering. Furthermore, there is a demand to increase minorities and females in STEM fields. Paper airplanes were a practical approach used to get students engaged. I think this was a good hook to read the rest of the book. Students were exposed to data analysis as well, which is useful for standardized tests. The ice cream experiment appeared fun and exciting. Perhaps, an extension on studying Louis Pasteur by adding social studies would have enhanced this lesson plan as well.

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