

Appendix

Writing Workshop Day 2

Sample Mini-lesson 3

Teaching Point: Writers pay close attention to the world around them.

Connect: We've been talking about ways in which writers get ideas to write about. So far, we've discovered that writers get ideas from stories in their lives. I've also shared my writing notebook with you and we've begun to think about other ways writers get ideas. Today, we're going to try something new. Good writers pay attention to the world around them, looking at things closely and being aware of their other senses as well in order to discover things to write about.

Teach: We're going to go outside and find something that interests us to closely observe and write about in our notebooks. It might be a leaf, a cloud, your shoe. After you find something to observe, ask yourself, What do I see? Hear? Smell? Feel? Maybe even taste? *Facilitator shares her own observation entry written earlier (it may include a sketch), pointing out how an awareness of the world around us gives us interesting things to write about.*

Active Involvement: No active involvement

Link: Let's go outside! Look around you! Think about what you could closely observe and write an entry in your notebook. I'll be coming around during work time to confer with you about your observations. During the Share, you will share your writing with a partner.

Sample minilesson 4

Teaching Point: Writers generate ideas from rereading their notebooks.

Connect: We have been writing a lot of notebook entries. Today, I'm going to show you how we can get more ideas to write about by rereading our entries, selecting one and using a strategy that we call "lifting a line". When we "lift a line" we reread an entry, take a line or phrase that strikes us, write it again at the top of a new page and begin to free write. Often this writing will take us in new and surprising directions.

Teach: Watch as I skim through my notebook to pick an entry that I'd like to write more about.... Here's one... I really like this line, "dappled sunlight on the willow tree"... I'm going to write it again at the top of the next page of my notebook and begin to write... This is making me think about the willow tree in my grandmother's backyard where I used to sit and play with the cat...

Active Involvement: Quickly skim through your writers notebook and see if an entry pops out that you'd like to reread and "lift a line" to generate a new entry.

Link: As you go off to work today, reread the entry that you've just picked and find a word or line that you want to put at the top of a new page and write from. If you didn't have enough time to choose an entry yet, then you'll need to do that first. When we share today, it will be great to hear from some of you how "lifting a line" helped give you new ideas to write about.