



WOODRIDGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT 68

Common Core Writing Newsletter

1st Grade Unit 1

Small Moments: Writing with Focus, Detail, and Dialogue

This unit encourages students to write about small moments, and this level of focus enables them to write with detail, including showing a character's small actions, dialogue, and internal thinking. Students will build their writing confidence and stamina throughout the lessons.

About this Unit

The first set of lessons in this unit is titled, "Writing Small Moment Stories with Independence." The unit opens with using mentor texts to help students see how great authors write. The lessons will help students write the stories of their lives and also establish the routines and the structures of the class so that this writing work can be done independently. Children will learn to touch and tell their stories, then sketch and write, so that they can move independently through the writing process again and again.

The second portion of the unit is titled "Bringing Small Moment Stories to Life." Students will be instructed on how to do just that. Children will learn how to slow down their story narratives to develop each part bit by bit. For example, partners will act out what the people in their stories did, and then try to capture that on the pages of their booklets.

The next few lessons will focus on having the writers to continue to learn ways to elaborate on their stories. Students will learn this by continuing to study other authors' works.

The last bend is focused on publishing. Each student will select a piece he or she wants to publish. After being taught a few final revision and editing strategies, children will work to make their best writing better.

Additional Information

Students will participate in a writer's workshop during a daily, dedicated writing time. The daily workshop is set up so that students will be presented with a mini-lesson and then be sent off to write as the teacher confers with students both individually and in small groups.

Attached to this newsletter are a grade level specific checklist and an example of proficient student writing for this unit's genre of writing. Please contact your student's teacher should you have any further questions.