

Writing Mini-Lesson: 4th Grade (Revision)

Intention (Skill): Adding dialogue to bring out the heart of the story

Teaching Point (Strategy): Writers make decisions about what dialogue to include by asking, "What could this person have said that would help the reader understand what my story is really about?"

Connection: Last time I was here, we talked about how writers make decision about which details to include by deciding what they're story is really about. Well, dialogue is one kind of detail, and I think you guys are ready to make decisions about your dialogue.

Today, I want to teach you that writers make decisions about what dialogue to include by asking, "What could this person have said that would help the reader understand what my story is really about?"

Teach: Let me show you what I mean. In *Come On, Rain!* Karen Hesse includes a lot of dialogue. She doesn't just have the characters talk about any old topic, though. Her story is about this magical moment when the rain comes, so she made a decision about what dialogue would help the reader understand that. She asked herself, "What could this person have said that would help the reader understand what my story is really about?"
(Share several examples from book.)

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. Would you look over your draft to find a place that could use some dialogue? Ask yourself, "What could this person have said that would help the reader understand what my story is really about?" Turn and talk to your partner for help.

Link: So today, or any day when you are revising your draft, you will need to make decisions about what dialogue to include. Don't just stick any old dialogue in there. Ask yourself, What could this person have said that would help the reader understand what my story is really about?"

Share: *While conferring, look for someone trying the strategy.*

