

Mini-Lesson: Empathizing with Characters to Write Well about Them (5th Grade)

Intention (Skill): Growing Ideas about Books

Teaching Point (Strategy): Readers empathize with characters in order to write well about them. You can do this by reading about the character, imagining yourself in a similar situation, and thinking about how you would feel.

Connection: You've been working this week on growing ideas about books. Yesterday, we practiced pulling direct quotes from the book to support our ideas. Today, I want to teach you that readers empathize with characters in order to write well about them. You can do this by reading about the character, imagining yourself in a similar situation, and thinking about how you would feel.

Teach: Let me show you what I mean. (Model with *Amazing Grace*, page with Ma and Nana - point out facial expressions, roller coaster of emotions, etc.) Did you see how I read about Grace, imagined myself in a similar situation, and thought about how I would feel? Now watch how I add to my writing about Grace based on how I can empathize with her. (Think aloud/write in the air)

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. Go back to the ideas you've written about Grace, and let's see if you can add to your notes by empathizing with her. (Share page at ballet with Nana.) Turn and tell your partner about how you're imagining yourself in a similar situation and how you might feel. (Lean in and coach partnerships.) Now, take a minute and add to your notes about Grace.

Link: You can do this with any book. Today and everyday, when you are trying to write about a character, it is helpful to empathize with them. Read about the character, imagine yourself in a similar situation, and think about how you would feel. Off you go.

