

Mini-Lesson: Generating Ideas for Writing (1st Grade)

Intention (Skill): Building Good Writing Habits - Generating Ideas

Teaching Point (Strategy): Writers can get ideas for writing by thinking about an important person and remembering one time they did something with that person.

Connection: Writers, I'm so excited to see how much you're already learning! I see that you know how to come to the carpet and how to get ready for writers' workshop. But after you get your supplies ready, that's when the hard work starts! That's when you have to think of something to write and make a book about it. There are lots of ways to get ideas for writing, and today, I want to teach you one of them.

One way writers can get ideas for writing is by thinking about an important person and remembering one time they did something with that person.

Teach: Let me show you what I mean. I have all of my supplies ready, so I'm going to think of someone who is important to me....

I could write about my mom, or my sister, or my goddaughter, Maddie. Maddie is important to me, and I can think of lots of things we've done together. Like one time, Maddie and I went on a plane ride together. I remember that we went to the airport, and she was so excited to see the planes flying in. Then we got on the plane, and we were a little bit nervous. But when the plane took off, we were having a lot of fun. I think I could write that story today.

Did you see how I thought of someone important to me and remembered one time I did something with her? That gave me my idea, so now I'm going to write it in this book.

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. Take a minute and think of someone that's important to you. It could be your mom or dad or uncle or grandma, or anyone that you love. When you've thought of someone, give me a thumbs-up. (Wait for thumbs.)

Now that you've thought of a person that's important to you, try to remember a time you did something with that person. (Give a few examples.) Put your thumb back up when you think of something. (Wait for most thumbs to go up.) Now turn to your partner (quickly organize partners if needed) and tell them what you'll write about.

Link: Oh my goodness - I heard some great story ideas! You all thought of someone who's important to you, then you remembered a time you did something with them. Now you're ready to write the story in a booklet! Any time you're stuck and can't think of what to write about, you can use this strategy. I'm going to put it on a chart to help you remember. (Assemble chart.) If you're ready to write, I have a booklet for you. Who's ready to write their story? (Pass out booklets.)

Share: Look for a student who has effectively used today's strategy, and make them famous during share time.