

Mini-Lesson: Sketching Stories (Kindergarten)

Intention (Skill): Generating stories by sketching

Teaching Point (Strategy): Writers get their stories on paper by thinking about their topic, making a movie in their mind, and then sketching it from that movie in their mind.

Connection: Boys and girls, I'm so excited to see the writing that you guys have been doing. You have learned so much already about how to handle supplies and how to get your stories on the paper. I think that you're ready to learn a new strategy for getting your stories on paper.

Today, I want to teach you that writers get their stories on paper by thinking about their topic, making a movie in their mind, and then sketching it from that movie in their mind.

Teach: Let me show you what I mean. Yesterday, I went to a restaurant called Benihana, where they cook your food right in front of you. I am thinking I could write a story about that. I'm going to make a movie in my mind. I can picture the table with the hot stove in the middle, and I can picture the chef twirling his knives around and chopping up the meat and the vegetables, and I can picture how fancy my plate looked when he served the food on it. Now that I've made a movie in my mind, I'm going to sketch the story from that movie in my mind. (Model sketching from movie.)

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. I want you to think about what you'll write about today, and make a movie in your mind. When you can see it in your mind, try sketching the first part on your first page.

(Check for understanding as students try out the strategy.)

Link: So today, and every day you're getting ready to write, I hope you'll remember that you can think about your topic, make a movie in your mind, and then sketch the story from that movie in your mind.

Share: (Look for students trying strategy. Make them famous!)