

Denise Uses a Piece of Student Writing as a Mentor Text in her Minilesson

Denise, Second Grade

Teacher speaking to whole class:

“Ok, writers, last night I took all your writing home, I sat on my couch and I just read and read and read. And I thought ‘Oh my gosh, you guys are so awesome, you guys are wonderful writers’. So I thought today what I might teach you was that - how writers can use other writers’ work to help them in their work. So when I was looking last night I was looking for a special piece, a piece that when I read it that I was like, ‘Oh wow, this has everything I need’. So I found one and this morning I asked permission from this person to borrow it and I made it larger so we could look at it this morning. This piece came out of a piece of writing that was all about dogs. Ok, so it says ‘Are dogs mammals?: Chapter 2’. So, first of all, that writer put the chapter number and they have a title right? So as a reader I know that when I read this down here, what am I going to be reading about?”

Whole-class speaking:

“Dogs”

Teacher speaking to whole class:

“I’m going to be reading about dogs and mammals, right? It’s going to have something to do with dogs and mammals. So let’s go down here and look. ‘Dogs are mammals because their babies are not born in an egg and they drink milk’. Then they have a fun fact. ‘Birds are not mammals because they are in an egg and they eat worms not drink milk’.”