

Shannon Uses A Piece of Children's Literature as a Mentor Text in her Minilesson

Shannon, First Grade

**Teacher speaking to whole class:**

"Today I'm going to teach you another way that writers can add a detail to a drawing. Ok, look at this, I want you to take a look. Do you remember this book we read the other day about animal feet?"

**Whole class speaking:**

"Yes"

**Teacher speaking to whole class:**

"Ok, do you remember what we noticed what the author did?"

**Student speaking:**

"Zoomed in"

**Teacher speaking to whole class:**

"They zoomed in. That's right, they zoomed in on that part of the animal, which this book is all about, their feet. So they zoomed in on each animal's feet to really give us a close up look at how they use their feet and, especially like on the bird, we noticed because from this angle we really couldn't tell how they used their feet. But when they zoomed in, we could really see how their claws wrapped around the branch, right? Let me show you this one that I found. Sharks. Look what the author did on this page. What do we always think of first when we think of a shark by the way?"

**Whole class speaking:**

"Teeth"

**Teacher speaking to whole class:**

"Their teeth. First thing we always think of about a shark. Well, that's an important part of a shark that they're known for. So look what the author did. 'Different sharks have different teeth. Their teeth are perfect for what they eat. Long, spikey teeth are for catching. Flat teeth are for grinding. Serrated, which means they have little bumpy edges, teeth are for ripping'. Wasn't that so smart of what the author did there? Because when I just look at a picture of this shark here, I can see his teeth a little bit, can't I? But look how much more detail I see in a zoomed in picture of their teeth. Do you see the difference?"

**[Students nodding yes]**