

Narrative Writing Minilesson:

Elaborating a Story

Kelley, Kindergarten

Teacher Speaking to Whole Class:

“Alright boys and girls I need everybody on their bottoms, crisscross applesauce, everybody’s eyes looking at me, we are ready to write this morning. So yesterday we were practicing planning our stories using our chart and we know that we have to think about something that’s happened to us. We have to tell it on our paper. One day this happened, then this happened, last this happened. After we tell the story then we have to write and we have to draw what the story is. So yesterday Ms. Creswell was looking at your stories and I noticed that they were really great stories but I was a little confused about some of the pictures. Some of the pictures didn’t quite match what you were trying to tell me in your story. Ok? So today what Ms. Creswell wants to teach you is how to add more to your stories through your drawings so that we can tell what’s going on in your story. So Ms. Creswell is going to do that by sharing a story to you. So I was thinking about a story that I could write and you know we’ve written several stories about Ms. Creswell’s dog before and I was thinking about another story about my dog that I could share with you boys and girls. Alright so I’m going to plan it first. That’s the first thing we have to do, is you have to plan before drawing. ‘One day I was out walking my dog on a leash around my neighborhood. Then my dog saw a squirrel in somebody’s yard. Last my dog got away from me and was chasing the squirrel’. So Ms. Creswell just planned her story. Now I want you to watch as I draw. Ready? Here we go. Alright so, here I am. Ok. And I’ll give myself some hair. Alright, here’s my leash and my dog. Alright so I’m going to label me, dog. Now I want you to look at this. Can you tell by looking at this who was with me, where I was, and what was happening? Give me a thumbs up if you can tell those things by this picture. Give me a “ehh” (half thumbs up) if I can’t really tell by the picture what’s happening.”

Majority of class gives a half thumbs-up

Teacher Speaking to Whole Class:

“So you know what I need to do. I need to add some details. Look at me and my dog it looks like were just floating around in space. I need to be walking on something so I am going to draw the road because we were walking along the road. And you know what you can’t really tell that we’re outside so I need to draw some things to let me know that we were outside. So that day it was a sunny day so I’m going to draw the sun and there are houses in a line because it is in a neighborhood. So I am going to draw some of those. So boys and girls this is what I want you to do. I want for you today to go back to your writing and I want you to look and I want you to see what details that you could add to your writing so that when we look at your pictures we can see who is in the picture, where you are, and what is happening. Look at the story that you started yesterday if that is on your paper. Look at your picture and see if it has who, where, and what you are doing. You have the people. Can you name them right now? Name who was with you, look at your story and name them.”

Various Student Discussions:

“Mama. Daddy. Brother. Sister. Cousin. Friend.”

Teacher Speaking to Whole Class:

“Alright boys and girls look at Ms. Creswell. I want you to look at this picture and see if you can tell where you are. Are you outside? Are you inside? Do you have a Sun maybe showing it’s a sunny day and clouds maybe looking like a cloudy day. Alright that’s what I want you to work on who was with you and where you were. Alright, Get busy we have a few more minutes.”