

Unit 2 Newsletter

The Power of Being Kind

The Focus in Reading

In our second unit we will focus on reading, retelling, and writing beginning, middle, and end to Frog and Toad stories by Arnold Lobel. The oral retell and written component will both support students' comprehension (understanding) in reading.

Students will learn how to strengthen their comprehension by:

- *Identifying story elements; characters, setting, problem, events, and solution*
- *Analyzing the setting and major characters in the stories by naming them and describing their feelings with evidence from the text*
- *Using illustrations to support their retelling and in their writing to support their understanding of the text*
- *Naming the author's central message*

How can you help your child?

Have conversations with your child about the stories you read together. Name what you are doing. Tell your child how when we discuss the story we are retelling. Retelling helps us better understand (comprehend) the story. Good readers comprehend (understand) what they read.

When reading a story with them or to them ask questions such as:

- *Who are the major characters? How are the characters feeling? How do you know they feel that way?*
- *What is the setting (time and place)?*
- *What is the problem?*
- *What happened so far?*
- *How did the story end?*

The Focus in Writing

Students will learn that a personal narrative is a story about themselves! They will understand their story has elements just like in the books they read. Personal narratives have characters (themselves and others in their story), a setting, and a goal or problem, events, and an ending, solution, or sometimes lesson learned. This is just like the stories they read only it is a true story about themselves instead of a fictional story.

Students will learn to:

- *Use story elements in their writing*
- *Include a great start that introduces the topic*
- *Add detailed events that paint a picture*
- *Wrap up with an interesting ending that remind the audience of their experience*

How Can You Help?

At the end of the day or a weekend ask your child to tell about something important that happened to them. Their important event is what we call their “chocolate chip”. It is the most important thing that happened to them and what they feel they can elaborate on! Then ask them to rehearse it (share it out loud) starting from the beginning. After have your child write down their experience.

To support a more detailed oral and written retell of your child’s experience ask them questions such as:

- *Where were you?*
- *When was this?*
- *Who else was there?*
- *Why were you doing that?*
- *Describe how you were feeling.*

Wrap up!

At the end of a unit students will be assessed (given a CEPA- Curriculum Embedded Performance Assessment). They will be asked to complete an oral and written retell from a story in the Frog and Toad collection. They will also provide an on demand personal narrative. When we are done with this unit the learning and teaching continues. Even though our focus will change, students will continue working on these skills throughout the year.