

Launching (Lesson 14) How Pictures Convey Stories

Minilesson Teaching Point:

Students will learn that pictures convey stories.

Standard(s):

Materials:

- Chart paper
- Chart Markers
- Whole-class experience

Connection:

“Writers, I want to talk with you today about how our drawings/pictures help us tell our stories. Yesterday we made pictures, movies, in our heads by visualizing our story. Today we will practice drawing our stories that are in our heads. The more we include, the better other people will understand and be able to picture it themselves.”

NOTE: You may show pictures, photos, or pictures from a book to help illustrate this point. Some good books would be: Knuffle Bunny, My Lucky Day. Some authors to use: Patricia Polacco, Cythia Rylant, Audrey and Don Wood, Vera Williams, and David Weisner.

Teach (modeling):

Think of a small, shared moment that the class has experienced together for modeling this lesson. It helps to have the kids picture the same thing and develop a community of writers.

*“I am going to **think aloud** about the time we saw the two squirrels chasing each other outside our window on the tree. I am picturing that day. I am making a movie in my mind of what happened first, second and last. It was sunny and the leaves on the tree were bright green. The squirrels were chasing each other around and around. They made squeaky noises. I laughed.*

*“Now I want to draw the whole story in my **illustration**.” Think aloud as you draw the idea on paper. Pause and say, “Do you see how I am putting the whole story in my **illustration**?”*

Active Engagement (guided practice):

Review what has been drawn so far and invite the students to help give ideas to finish the illustration details.

Bridge to Independent Practice:

“So, today and every day when we write make sure you make a movie, a picture, of your ideas in your head. Think about what happened and make sure to include the details in your pictures. Who was in your story? Where were they? Was it outside? What were they doing? When you include these things, others can understand your story better. Maybe they will even feel like they were there, too.”

Closure:

Have class share their **illustrations** and compliment the details that help you understand their writing better.

Reflection:

Resources & References: (adapted from, acknowledgments)