

Launching (Lesson 17) More Ways Writers Get Ideas

Minilesson Teaching Point:

Students will understand that writers get ideas for writing in many ways.

Standard(s):

Materials:

- Teacher “Heart Bag” from previous lesson
- Student “Heart Bags”
- Teacher ideas/objects to add to the “Heart Bag” [TIP: Put a classroom object in the bag that relates to a whole-class experience. This demonstrates that a simple, funny class experience can be written about. It also helps create a connection with the students.]
- “Writing Workshop looks like...feels like...sounds like...” chart from Lesson 12 for reference.

Connection:

“Writers, remember the other day when I shared with you my special bag that I filled with things from my home that gave me ideas for writing? I put in _____ and _____ and _____, because these things reminded me that I wanted to write about those memories, people, and experiences. Remember, strong writers get ideas in many different ways. Whatever it is, writers always write about things they care about or things that are near and dear to their hearts.”

Teach (modeling):

“Yesterday, I wrote about _____. Today I think I will write about _____. I put this in my bag because it made me think of _____. Watch as I draw my story.” Model writing a story about the object, thinking aloud as you draw. *“Now I will write my words.”* Model writing the words and/or letters to tell about the drawing.

Active Engagement (guided practice):

“Writers, I know that you brought in your special bag, too. I would like you to turn and talk to your neighbor about what you brought in your bag.”

ELD: *“I brought in _____ because I want to write about _____.”*

NOTE: You may want to have a few students share their items with the whole class. This will help you reinforce that writers get their ideas from many different places. If appropriate, show how one student’s object gave you an idea for a story. *“We get writing ideas from our memories (what’s inside our heads). We get writing ideas from objects.”*

Bridge to Independent Practice:

“Now, writers, I would like you to think about what you brought in and the story you will write. Make a picture or a movie of the story in your head. Tell yourself what happened first, what happened next, and what happened at the end of your story. Now, please quietly go write. And remember what writing workshop looks like, sounds like and feels like!” (Refer to the class-made chart.)

Closure:

Gather students back on the carpet. *“Writers, today you shared your special bag. Did any of you write about the thing you brought in? Would anyone like to share their writing?”*

Reflection:

Resources & References: (adapted from, acknowledgments)