

Personal Narrative—Winter (Lesson 6)

Word Wall Words in a Snap

Minilesson Teaching Point:

Writers will learn that some words they will “just know” and can spell easily and that the **Word Wall** contains other words that they will “soon know” and can use in their writing.

Standard(s):

CC.1.2.K.J

Materials:

- Chart paper
- Pencil
- Writing/sound card
- Personal writing workshop notebook
- White Boards and Dry Erase Markers
- Word Wall

Connection:

*“Writers, I want you to help me write a story about planting my garden. While we are writing I want to teach you a trick about how to make the writing go faster. We are going to learn how to write words in a **snap**. This is like when you learn the names of friends. It doesn’t take too long to learn their names. Once you make friends and learn their names, you can learn how to find your friends’ names posted in the classroom, then, it’s easier to learn how to write those names. Learning how to read the **Word Wall** words will help you learn to write those words in a **snap**.”*

Teach (modeling):

Tell the students that there are some words they will “just know” and write quickly, and some words they can write after a quick check of the **Word Wall**. *“Writers, have you noticed that sometimes when you are writing you get to a word and you ‘just know’ how to spell it? Writers call these words **snap words**, because you can spell them in a **snap**.”* Snap your fingers. *“So if you are writing a story and you want to write ‘mom’, you say, mom! I know mom: m-o-m! And you write m-o-m. These **snap words** are up here on our **Word Wall**. There are many words that I think you almost ‘just know’. While writing, you can look for those words on the **Word Wall**, reminding yourself with a quick check how to spell those words correctly and then write them down. **Snap!** I want you to help me write my story and maybe some of the words I want to write will be ones that you can write in a **snap**.”*

Active Engagement (guided practice):

*“Writers would you get out your white boards so we can write my story? I want to write: ‘I am going to plant my garden this Saturday. Let’s write ‘I’”. Snap your fingers. “We know how to spell ‘I’”. “Write ‘I’ on your white boards. Write the next word of your story, ‘am’”. “Writers, write ‘am’ in a **snap** or use the **Word Wall** to help you.”*
Continue through the sentence with the focus on writing **Word Wall** words in a **snap**.

Bridge to Independent Practice:

*“Today, when you write, lots of times you’ll come to words you just know. Write these fast. Don’t stretch them out--just say, I know that word! Or say, ‘I almost know that word, let me check the word wall’, then write the word with a **snap!**”*

Closure:

*“Every day, you’ll find words that you know like a **snap**. And, as you keep learning, you’ll have more and more of these **snap words** to use in your writing.”*

Reflection:

Resources & References: (adapted from, acknowledgments)

Lucy Calkins and Abby Oxenhorn. Small Moments: Personal Narrative Writing, pp. 77-82.