

Personal Narrative—Winter (Lesson 10) Lowercase Letters

Mini-lesson Teaching Point:

Writers will learn when to use lowercase letters in words and when to use an uppercase letter in a word.

Standard(s):

CC.1.1.K.B

Materials:

- Chart paper
- Pencils
- Writing/sound card
- Personal writing workshop notebook

Connection:

“As writers it is important for others to be able to read our writing. One way that we do that is to use mostly lowercase letters. Writers we will be learning when to use lowercase letters and when to use uppercase letters. Lowercase letters are like every day clothes and uppercase letters are like special dress-up, meaning that most of the time you write with lowercase letters. Uppercase letters are meant for special words, just like dress-up clothes are for special times.”

Teach (modeling):

“When writers first learn how to write letters, it takes a lot of thinking and hand strength to remember how to make all of the different letters. Remember this: Most words use ALL lowercase letters. Sometimes we use uppercase letters for special reasons like a person’s name or a name of a special place, but most words are written with lowercase letters. As I write, watch how I write mostly lowercase letters.” Keep the focus on the use of lowercase letters, but mention uppercase letters at the beginning of sentences, for the word “I” and when writing someone’s name. *“I’ll start with an uppercase letter because all sentences start with an uppercase letter. But watch. The rest of my sentence will all be lowercase letters!”* Create a story with one sentence: *“The blueberry muffins were yummy.”*

Active Engagement (guided practice):

*“Writers, **turn and talk** about when I used lowercase letters and when I used uppercase letters. Did I ever put an uppercase letter in the middle or end of a word? When I wrote an uppercase letter, where did it go?”* Share out answers. Have students write a word on the palm of their hand in all lowercase letters.

Bridge to Independent Practice:

“Today as you write, make sure that most of the words are lowercase unless it is for a special occasion such as the word “I”, someone’s name, a special place or the beginning of a new sentence.”

During writing workshop have writers identify words that have all lowercase letters and words that have uppercase letters. Have students explain why writers use lowercase letters and uppercase letters.

Closure:

At the end of writing time, have students count how many uppercase letters for special occasions were used. Take a poll – how many used one, two, three, four, etc. capital letters.

“Remember, writers usually write a word with all lowercase letters. They use uppercase letters at the beginning of a word for special reasons, such as writing a name or the beginning of a sentence.”

Reflection:

Resources & References: (adapted from, acknowledgments)

Linda Hoyt and Teresa Therriault. Mastering the Mechanics K-1, pp. 114-115