

Lesson 19: Welcome Home: Celebrating the Writing Journey

Supplies Needed:

- Welcome Home Banner
- Other Decorations (optional)
- Light Snacks or Treats (optional)
- New Author Certificates for each writer in your classroom
- Chart paper
- Markers

Procedure:

- Display the Welcome Home banner in your classroom and set up an area with light snacks/treats and refreshments.
- Before the lesson invite parents, the principal and/or assistant principals and any others who might want to participate in the celebration. Let them know when the celebration will occur and why it is happening.
- Gather students and talk about a fun event that some people might get to participate in when they return from a long trip – a Welcome Home party. Discuss the guests that might be there and why such a celebration might occur.
- Tell your writers that you are throwing them a Welcome Home party because they have been on this long journey of becoming a writer and you are happy that they have learned what it means to become a published author.
- As a class, brainstorm a list of all the great things they have learned about becoming a writer on the chart paper. Let guests share some words about how proud they are of the authors in the room. Be sure to make the chart colorful and display it proudly in the classroom.
- Pass out the New Author certificates to each child individually with a healthy round of applause for each one from everyone in the room.

- Let everyone enjoy the refreshments and circulate to talk about the pieces they are currently working on, as well as what they have learned in the past weeks.
- Later in the year you might choose to end each unit with this type of a celebration, but for those you would also have a table to display the published writing of the authors in your classroom.

Notes: _____
