

Lesson 1: Writers “Pack Their Bags” with Ideas for Their Writing

Supplies Needed:

- Wherever You Go by Pat Miller
- What Can I Write About Anchor Chart (of your choice)
- Packing My Bag With Ideas Booklet for each student (an additional idea for this is to cut out a front and back cover from construction paper that look like the outsides of a suitcase and staple them to the front and back of this booklet to make it look like a real suitcase of ideas)
- Stack of books that contain narrative, fiction and nonfiction titles

Procedure:

- Gather students and read aloud Wherever You Go. Discuss the journey that the rabbit and his friends go on and the magical places that the road they are on leads them too.
- Relate the story to the journey that the students will be going on as they become writers/authors. They will make many stops as they learn to become writers, and the stories that they write are like the magical worlds that the rabbit and his friends visited.
- Show the stack of books you have and talk about each type – narratives, fiction and nonfiction. Tell the students the main differences in the types of stories.
- Show the What Can I Write About anchor chart you have decided upon and then discuss or brainstorm some class ideas for writing to give students a start.
- Pass out the Idea Suitcases to each student (or the materials to make these). Talk about how to add ideas to the pages and model by adding some to each page of your own Ideas book.
- Explain to students that making lists of ideas is the first step in the process to becoming a writer.

- Be sure to keep your own suitcase so that you can continue to model how to add ideas throughout the launching unit. Pull it out from time to time and quickly add your ideas in front of the class so that they know they are to be adding ideas all the time.
- The task for students today during independent writing is to begin adding their own ideas to their Idea Suitcase. You may choose to give students permission to chat with friends during this process to spark ideas. You might also want to provide paper/blank books for students who feel they want to begin writing a story.
- Gather students together for sharing time and have volunteers share some of their ideas that they came up with today. Be sure to try to get ideas from students that match the narrative, fiction and nonfiction categories so that each type is illustrated and discussed.

Notes: _____

