

Lesson: Writers Use Words & Illustrations to Teach

Subject Area: Writing

Common Core Standards Covered:

Supplies Needed:

- A stack of 9 or 10 nonfiction books that use words and pictures to teach children. (The books can be on any topic but narrowing them down to one subject such as animals might make this lesson easier.)
- Sharks! by Anne Schreiber (or another nonfiction book with good words and pictures) – We like to read our mentor texts prior to the lesson. Use it as a filler the day before. This helps keep the mini-lesson short, like a good mini-lesson should be!

Procedure:

- Begin by handing out the stack of books. In partners or small groups give students a few minutes to look through the nonfiction books. Do this before asking any questions.
- After students have had a chance to glance through a few books, ask them what they notice. If students do not notice this on their own, lead them to noticing that all of the books are nonfiction or contain facts. (Students may also notice other features of nonfiction such as labels, a table of contents or a glossary.)
- Ask students to find a picture in their books that helps teach about their subject. Give children a chance to share their findings.
- Talk about how this helps the reader learn about the subject. Possible answers include: it helps us visualize what the author is talking about or it helps explain something that is not clear.
- Share Sharks! with the class. Show children pages 6 and 7. Talk about the labels on the pictures and how these words combined with the pictures help teach the reader. Page 18 is a good example of an author using pictures to teach children about different shark teeth.

- Encourage students who are currently writing nonfiction books to think about the pictures they have drawn. Tell them to look carefully at these illustrations today and add to them to help teach their readers.

***Because this is one lesson on using illustrations to teach and not a whole unit, not all students will attempt this skill at this time. During share time, find students who have examples of this skill to share. All students will be given the chance to practice this skill during the unit of study on nonfiction later in the year.

Notes: _____

