

MINI-LESSON: Outline Sharing Time/Author's Chair

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Resource

This is a single page from *Launching the Writer's Workshop* available at www.TheLiteracyStore.com.



Teacher Tip

Sharing time is not “show and tell.” Asking for volunteers often garners kids reading lengthy pieces that are not necessarily strong. Assigning students to share on particular weekdays (regardless of what they wrote) isn't purposeful. Rather, use the Author's Chair as an opportunity to point out specific skills and successes.

Mini-Lesson Procedure:

Explain that at the end of Writing Time each day, there is another meeting. This one is devoted to celebrating the writing students created that day.

To move into the third portion of the writer's workshop, introduce the code phrase— *Wrap it up*. This indicates that writers should put away their notebooks and prepare for the Author's Chair.

WHAT DOES
“Wrap it up”
MEAN?

It's time to move on.
FINISH YOUR IDEA.
Then put any supplies away.
PSSST... “Away” NEVER means “on the floor.”

WHAT IS
“Author's Chair”?

The teacher will invite
certain people to share some
of what they wrote. Give them your
attention and respect.

Hey! Don't be sad that you weren't picked today.
It doesn't mean you didn't do it right.
Not everyone will get a turn every day.
Chill! You're probably still pretty cool.

Outline the procedures.

- Explain that 1-3 sharers are selected based on accomplishments during that day's Writing Time. The teacher will indicate the portion of the writing the student will read aloud.
- Identify the actual chair (e.g., stool, teacher's chair, rocking chair, etc.) or explain if “Author's Chair” is a figure of speech that simply means the student has the floor.
- Explain that the teacher will introduce each sharer, identifying the student, the piece, and the skill the class should listen for. Then that student will read aloud only the portion requested.
- With only 1-3 students sharing a portion of their writing, Author's Chair will last approximately five minutes each day.



Independent-Writing Task:

Students select a writing topic from their previously-brainstormed lists and write independently. NOTE: Students might choose to continue working on a previously started piece.

While observing students as they write, select 1-3 writers to read during today's Author's Chair. Consider students who have chosen topics that they obviously know a lot about. This reinforces a recently taught writing skill.

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