Reading like a Writer Unit Projection

Unit of Study: Reading like a Writer # weeks or month:Aug/Sep/Year

Primary Goals:

1. Students read like a writer by switching their focus from what the writing is about to how the author crafted the writing.

2. Students think about how the author crafted his/her writing so that they might try those crafting techniques in their own writing.

Secondary Goals:

1. Students notice and name author’s craft by reading with a writer’s eye.

2. Students read and reread the writing to figure out how and why the author crafted it in such a way.

3. Students build characters in different ways.

4. Students write with their own style or voice.

5. Students create conflict in different ways.

6. Students focus on setting to create mood.

7. Students control the element of time in their writing.

8. Students craft effective leads and endings.

9. Students use details to breathe life into their writing.

10. Students choose effective language and word choice in their writing.

Projection of Possible Mini Lesson Topics:

1. Building characters from familiar people in your life

2. Using all five senses to describe character

3. Getting characters moving by telling what’s happening to them on the outside and on the inside

4. Getting your characters talking (dialogue)

5. Revealing character’s flaws or contradiction to develop action

6. Using voice to make writing honest and authentic

7. Thinking about audience when writing with voice

8. Experimenting with different types of voice

9. Adding conflict (person vs. person, person vs. nature, internal conflict)

9. Using setting to develop characters

10. Using setting to help build the plot

11. Using setting to create mood

12. Cutting time to get to the heart of the story

13. Focusing on a narrow slice of time

14. Slowing down on the hot spot

15. Using flashback

16. Crafting leads (various mini lesson topics)

17. Crafting endings (various mini lesson topics)

18. Learning to use details in a dramatic way

19. Using details to make complex ideas understandable

20. Picking details that create a vivid picture

21. Selecting details that make your writing authentic

22. Using strong verbs

23. Using comparisons such as similes and metaphors

24. Adding poetic language

Resources/Materials/Books:

1. Stack of mentor texts with effective writer’s craft

2. K-2 Lucy Calkins Book 5 (Authors as Mentors)

3. 3-4 Lucy Calkins Book 6 (Memoir: The Art of Writing Well)

4. 3-4 Ralph Fletcher books (Live Writing-Breathing Life into Your Words)

Key Questions:

1. What did I notice about the craft?

2. Why might the author have crafted this piece in this way?

3. Does this crafting technique have a name? What could I call it?

4. Have I seen this technique before?

5. How could I try out this technique in my own writing?