

Becky Pereira
Writers' Workshop Lesson Plan, 11-15-06

Significance in Narrative

Outcome: I would like the students to be able to identify why the event they selected for their narrative publishing is important to them.

Type of Model: Teacher Writing

Mini-lesson: Why is this event important to me?
Connect: Yesterday, each of you selected your topic for our next narrative publishing. You looked at your briefs and tried to decide which one you could say more about.
Teach: Today we are going to examine why the topic you selected is really important to you. We did this work in reading workshop with the books <i>Whistling and Shortcut</i> . We asked ourselves why the stories were important to tell. We weren't sure of the correct answer, since we weren't the authors, but we came up with some ideas. Today it's a little different because you are the authors – so now all you have to do is ask yourself why this story is important to you. I tried this myself. I told you my story of when I jumped into the swimming pool and cut my chin open. I decided I could write more about this event yesterday, so then I asked myself why this event was important to me. This is what I came up with... <i>Share writing entry from sourcebook.</i>
Active Involvement: I would like each of you to think about the topic you selected yesterday and ask yourself, why the event you selected is really important to you. Take a few seconds right now to really think about it. <i>Turn and talk to a partner.</i>
Link: Now that each of you have had a chance to think about your why this event was important to you and then share with a partner, I would like you to go back to your seats and try this in sourcebook. Go to your next blank page, write 'Why is this event important to me?' on the top and give it a try. You may have to ask yourself why several times before you settle on one reason. If you complete that entry, you may return to your briefs and write more, trying to include this importance in your piece, so your audience will know why this event was important to you. Remember, those of you that weren't here yesterday, please go get your sourcebooks and meet me first thing here on the carpet.

Possible Closing: Author's chair of a few students who were successful at writing why the event was important to them, or if bulk of class successful, have them all bring their sourcebooks and do a partner share of importance.