


Unit 2: Small Moments


Introduction

Using effective decoding and comprehension strategies is the focus of this second unit of study. Thinking readers seamlessly employ a whole range of strategies. Small Moment lessons provide beginning readers explicit demonstrations about how to use strategies in isolation but also in combination with strategies to make meaning of text.

First-graders retell a sequence of events with precise detail and write so readers can follow those events. Lucy Calkins states, "What in fact matters most to a child's later literacy are the opportunities children have to take the moments of their lives and spin them into stories... If our children are going to be at home with literacy, they need to read, write, and talk the language that creates new worlds." (*Small Moments: Personal Narrative Writing*, 2003, page IV)

As with all the units of study, teachers are encouraged to use these lessons as a guide. Adapt lessons to meet your students' needs and make the unit your own. Depending on your students' background and interest, add, eliminate, or modify lessons. The unit is expected to take five to six weeks to complete.

 English Language Learner (ELL) connection—These planning guides were written to intentionally integrate transitioning ELLs' needs. The star symbol indicates a strategy and/or additional support essential for transitioning ELLs and embedded throughout the lessons. These suggestions may also benefit other learners. The Notes column shows details and reminders related to ELL strategies, as well as additional information for teachers working with different student populations.

 Information Literacy and Technology (ILT) connection—Throughout this unit of study are suggestions to infuse informational literacy and technology into the lessons to provide students with opportunities for 21st century learning.

Colorado Standards

- Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.
- Standard 2: Write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Standard 3: Write and speak using formal grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- Standard 4: Apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.
- Standard 5: Read to locate, select, evaluate, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.
- Standard 6: Read and recognize literature as a record of human experience.

Reading Workshop: Big Ideas

- Develop reading strategies for decoding and comprehension.
- Give evidence that students follow the meaning of what they read.
- Develop group skill of talking and listening to one another.
- Solve reading problems and self-correct through strategies that include using syntax and word meaning clues and gathering context clues from surrounding sentences or pictures.
- Talk about characters' motives.
- Read personal narratives and identify attributes for personal narrative writing.
- Retell a story with simple narrative structure, getting the story in the correct sequence.
- Listen and respond to literature from a variety of cultures.

Writing Workshop: Big Ideas

- Tell, draw, and write personal stories and focused, small moment ideas.
- Tell stories with sequence of events, including a beginning, middle, and ending.
- Evidence a plan in their writing.
- Demonstrate a growing awareness of author's craft by applying some writing strategies.
- Share and talk about their writing daily.
- Continue to develop strategies for hearing and recording sounds, using known words, leaving spaces between words, and being risk-takers with spelling.
- Apply a sense of what constitutes good writing.

Reading Resources

- *Making Meaning*, first grade and accompanying text
- Notebook lessons
- Variety of big books
- *Fifty Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners*, Second Edition, by Adrienne Herrell and Michael Jordan

Writing Resources

- Units of Study: *Small Moments: Personal Narrative Writing: Writing for Readers: Teaching Skills and Strategies*; and *The Craft of Revision* by Lucy Calkins
- *Using Rubrics to Improve Student Writing, First Grade, New Standards* by NCEE
- Student samples of narratives

Lessons 1-5	Reading Workshop	Lesson 1: Deepening Book Discussions and Thinking about Text (AC26) ★	Lesson 2: Getting and Maintaining Meaning (AC27) ★	Lesson 3: Combining Beginning Reading Strategies ★	Lesson 4: Cross Checking Beginning Sounds and Picture Clues ★	Lesson 5: Extending Known Sight Word Vocabulary (CC) ★ ⊕
	Writing Workshop	Lesson 1: Understanding Small Moments ★ ⊕	Lesson 2: Discovering One Small Moment ★	Lesson 3: Establishing Long-Term Partnerships ★	Lesson 4: Stretching One Small Moment ★	Lesson 5: Stretching Words and Writing Sounds ★
Lessons 6-10	Reading Workshop	Lesson 6: Identifying Important Details from a Story (MM) ★	Lesson 7: Making Text-to-Self Connections (MM) ★	Lesson 8: Asking Important Questions ★	Lesson 9: Blending through Words while Predicting Meaning ★	Lesson 10: Combining Reading Strategies Again ★
	Writing Workshop	Lesson 6: Planning for Details ★	Lesson 7: Internalizing Story Shapes ★	Lesson 8: Writing Some Words in a Snap ★	Lesson 9: Focusing on the Most Important Part ★	Lesson 10: Continue Focusing Ideas ★
Lessons 11-15	Reading Workshop	Lesson 11: Supporting Our Thinking about Important Ideas (MM) ★	Lesson 12: Making Text-to-Self Connections (MM) ★	Lesson 13: Drawing or Writing in Response to Reading Culturally Competent Books ⊕	Lesson 14: Exploring Epilogues (MM) ★	Lesson 15: Noticing Patterns in Text ★ ⊕
	Writing Workshop	Lesson 11: Revealing Internal Stories ★	Lesson 12: Writing Close-In Story Endings ★	Lesson 13: Revising Endings ★	Lesson 14: Identifying Endings ★	Lesson 15: Revising with Partners ★
Lessons 16-20	Reading Workshop	Lesson 16: Predicting Text Vocabulary ★ ⊕	Lesson 17: Looking for “Chunks” of Words ★	Lesson 18: Using Familiar Chunks and Rimes when Reading ★ ⊕	Lesson 19: Making More Text-to-Self Connections (MM) ★	Lesson 20: Paying Attention to Sequence of a Story ★
	Writing Workshop	Lesson 16: Inspiring Students to Write for Readers ★	Lesson 17: Examining Readable and Unreadable Writing ★	Lesson 18: Stretching and Writing Words ★	Lesson 19: Spacing Words ★	Lesson 20: Checking Content: Small Moment Stories ★

Lessons 21-25	Reading Workshop	Lesson 21: Taking Words Apart in Reading and Checking Meaning ★	Lesson 22: Getting the Gist of the Story (MM)(CC) ★ ⊕	Lesson 23: Retelling in Sequence (MM)(CC) ★	Lesson 24: Retelling with Attention to Characters (MM) ★	Lesson 25: Identifying Details during Retell (MM) ★
	Writing Workshop	Lesson 21: Adding in the Middle of Text ★	Lesson 22: Adding Dialogue ★	Lesson 23: Teaching Children to Confer about Writing ★	Lesson 24: Preparing for Celebration ★	Lesson 25: Author Celebration ★
Lessons 26-27	Reading Workshop	Lesson 26: Practicing Retells with Transition Words (MM) ★ ⊕	Lesson 27: Reading Self-Assessment (CC) ★	Lesson 28: Using Text Talk to Increase Literary Language (CC) ★ ⊕		
	Writing Workshop					