

Writing Homework March 27th

This week for literacy homework, your child, with your support, will write a story. The students have made remarkable progress with their writing during this school year. In an effort to continue this level of improvement, we want to include you in the writing process. We have included guiding questions you should ask your child and comments to help as they proceed through each evening's homework.

Monday

1. Together, think of a small moment story that your child could write about.
 - A small moment story is a story that zooms in on one tiny moment. For example, if you and your family took a trip to Disney Land, the small moment story would be the part about going on a ride, not the whole trip.
2. Draw a picture about your story in the writing booklet included.
3. Label your picture. You should have at least 5 labels.
4. Under the picture, list **when** the story happened, **who** was there, **what** you were doing, and **where** the story happened. Make sure this is shown in your picture.

Tuesday

1. Write the lead sentence for your story. This is 1 sentence. Guiding questions to ask:
 - What is a lead? (A lead is the beginning sentence that will make the reader want to continue to read because it is so interesting.)
 - What are some different leads you could use? (Ask a question, start with the weather or another way you think would grab the reader's attention.)
2. Write the beginning part of the story. (About 3-5 sentences. Remember to include the who, what, when and where.)
3. Go through the editing checklist after the beginning is finished.

Wednesday

1. Write the middle part of the story. Try to add many details. (At least 4-6 sentences.)
2. Guiding questions to ask:
 - What happened first? After that? Next? (In what order did things happen?)
 - What could you see, hear, smell, taste or touch?
 - How were you feeling? What were you thinking?
 - Can you add any talking? Remember to use talk marks!
 - Can you add some million dollar words? (See "Million \$" word list for some ideas.)
3. Go through the editing checklist after the middle is finished.
4. Writing the middle may take 2 nights.

Thursday (or on the weekend)

1. Write the ending. (About 2-4 sentences.)
2. Focus on keeping the ending close to the story. Guiding questions to ask:
 - Is the ending about the story? Does it finish what the story is about?
 - Example: If the story is about sliding, then the ending could be about how exciting it was, or if they are going to do it again, or that they want to get a new sled to go faster next time.....as long as the ending stays "close to the story". Ending by writing, and then I went home, or and then I had supper.....does not stay close to the story.
3. Go through the editing checklist after the ending is finished.
4. Please send your story to school tomorrow, if you are finished, or on Monday, Apr. 3rd.

The following chart is an "At a Glance" view of what the grade 2 students have been taught and are encouraged to include in their writing:

In my writing I....	
Have: Upper case letters Stop marks (. ! ?) Spaces between words "No Excuses" words spelled correctly A beginning, middle & end A great lead A great ending	Add: Million dollar words Details Thoughts and feelings Talking

