

Lesson Skill: Prewriting, using pictures

Strand Writing

SOL 1.13

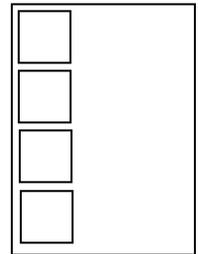
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Materials

- Book to be read aloud
- Prewriting Activity Sheet (attached)

Lesson

1. Read aloud a book or article that has interesting pictures with numerous details. Stop at various points and ask students to “read the pictures.” Point out that good readers get information from both the illustrations and the words in text. After reading, ask students if they think the pictures, in addition to the words, helped them understand the book, and spend a few minutes allowing them to share their thoughts. Ask students how pictures might also help the writers who are creating their books.
2. Ask students to imagine writing their own books, and ask if they think that drawing pictures might help them think of ideas, words, and details to use. Confirm that often, authors do the same—draw pictures to help them get started with the writing. Tell students they will have the opportunity to be writers, and before they begin, they will draw pictures to spark their ideas and words.
3. Model how to use drawing as a prewriting strategy. Draw four squares on the left side of a piece of chart paper or the whiteboard, as shown at right. Choose a topic that is familiar to students—e.g., things they like best about school, family, friends, favorite pets. Think aloud so students can observe you brainstorming your own ideas. Draw an illustration in a box for each of the four ideas you generated about the topic, taking time to include some details in your pictures. Ask them how they think these pictures are going to help you begin writing. Focus on one illustration at a time, getting details from it to create your first sentence. Write the sentence in the space to the right of the picture. Do the same thing with the remaining illustrations. While thinking aloud, point out how the illustrations are helping to decide what to write.
4. When you are finished, have the class read your story aloud.
5. Distribute copies of the attached Prewriting Activity Sheet, and tell students that each of them will now draw four pictures on the same topic to create their own stories.



6. After students are finished with their four drawings, have them use the first drawing to create their first sentence, then the others, writing in the space next to the drawings. Have students read their stories to a partner or to the class, as time permits.

Assessment

- Have students use the attached Prewriting Activity Sheet to use their imaginations to draw pictures and write corresponding sentences about topics of their own choice. If students are not able to generate ideas, provide additional support.

Strategies for Differentiation

- Begin with one square, and complete a drawing with the entire class. Then, compose the sentence for that drawing.
- Choose a book or story with which students are familiar, and complete the activity sheet as needed.
- Give students a worksheet that includes completed drawings and sentences presented in random order. Have them cut out the drawings and sentences and match them up. An Interactive whiteboard may be used for this activity.

Prewriting Activity Sheet

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