



SHELL
EDUCATION

Getting to the

Teacher
Resource CD
included

Level

4

Core of Writing

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Essential Lessons
for Every
Fourth Grade
Student

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I Wonder List

Standard

Uses prewriting strategies to plan written work

Materials

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Writer's Notebooks
- *I Wonder List Notebook Entry* (page 100; iwonder.pdf)

Mentor Texts

- *I Wonder Why Whales Sing: and Other Questions About Sea Life* by Caroline Harris
- See *Mentor Text List* in Appendix C for other suggestions.

Procedures

Note: Use this lesson to encourage students to wonder about the people and world around them. You may want students to publish an *I Wonder* series to promote accountability and motivation.

Think About Writing

1. Explain to students that one of the ways that authors get ideas for writing is by asking questions. Review with students that as readers we ask questions of ourselves to clarify an author's message and to better understand what we have read. Explain that authors often generate questions as the basis of a book.
2. Review mentor texts, if desired, and emphasize how the author generates a whole book around wondering about things.

Teach

3. Tell students, "Today I will show you how to take a text pattern and use that pattern to create your own writing."
4. Choose one of the examples from the notebook page, and write it on chart paper. Explain to students that the *I wonder* text pattern follows a structure: an *I wonder* statement followed by two questions. Tell students that this pattern can be used as the basis of ideas for writing topics.
5. Model how to create your own *I wonder* text using any topic you desire. Then, have students help create one together as a class.

I Wonder List (cont.)

Engage

6. Have students work with partners to think of an *I wonder* statement followed by two related questions. Suggested topics include parents, community, or a person you admire. Provide approximately two minutes for students to talk.

Apply

7. Encourage students to be curious about the world around them by asking questions to clarify their thinking, grow their knowledge, or improve their writing. Provide students with the *I Wonder List Notebook Entry* (page 100) to add to their Writer's Notebook. Have students work on the *Your Turn* section before proceeding to their writing folders.

Write/Conference

8. Provide time for students to write. Keep yourself available to roam and conference with individuals. Assist students who need guidance.

Spotlight Strategy

9. Spotlight students who have created strong *I wonder* statements for writing. For example, "Your questioning strategies are right on target. Just notice how Shabir is using the language of a writer. His writing sounds like a few *I Wonder* books might develop from this activity."

Share

10. Have students share their writing with partners. Ask students to read their questions to their partners and have the partners ask questions, such as: "Where did you get your ideas?" "Why are you curious about that topic?" Provide approximately two minutes for students to share.

Homework

Ask students to work with their parents to generate additional questions. Have students make lists of at least three *I wonder* statements they would like to add to their notebook at school.

I Wonder List Notebook Entry

I Wonder List

Authors are curious. They select topics to research and learn more about their interests. They use questions, such as *Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?* and *What if?*

Use these steps to create your own *I wonder* ideas for writing.

1. Select a topic and write an *I Wonder* statement.
2. Ask two questions.

Topic: Frogs

I wonder **how** frogs croak.

Where is the croaker located in the frog's body?

Why does the frog's throat wiggle when he croaks?

I wonder **why** frogs croak.

Are they talking to other frogs?

Is croaking a way to warn other frogs of danger?

I wonder **when** frogs croak.

Is it in the morning when the sun has just peeked over the horizon?

Is it at the end of the day in the late evening?



Your Turn:

Write an *I Wonder* statement and two related questions.