



The Kindergarten Chronicles

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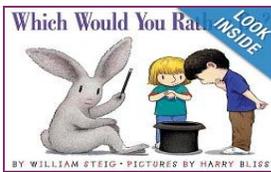
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Would You Rather...? opinion writing on a given topic



Third trimester continues the mode of opinion writing with our kindergarten students. I made opinion writing journals for my class and ask the students' opinions on a variety of topics by using "Would you rather?" type questions. I introduced this unit with the book *Would Your Rather Be?* by William Steig. Then I posed the following question: "Would you rather play indoors or outdoors? Why?" The students thought about their opinions and determined some reasons to support their opinions. After charting some of the students' responses, I asked the students to state their opinions in writing, to give reasons to support their opinions, and to include a closing that states their opinions again. The students are truly loving learning about their peers through these questions! I also incorporated this topic into math by having the students graph the class data on who prefers to play outdoors and who prefers to play indoors. This is a great way for students to count and compare numbers, as well as make some conjectures about students in our classroom with regards to the data that we compiled—a great math and literacy connection!

Indoors	Outdoors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • build legos • Watch TV Netflix • Computer • American Girl Doll • too hot outside • Minecraft • toys 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports @ football • Swim • bike • trampoline • play with dogs • soccer



Which Would You Rather Be? LOOK INSIDE

BY WILLIAM STEIG • PICTURES BY HARRY BLISS

Would you rather play indoors or outdoors? Why?

I would rather play outdoors. One reason I like to play sports. Also I could play at my friends house. Would you like to play outdoors?

- ### Would You Rather Questions
1. Would you rather be a child or a grown up? Why?
 2. Would you rather go on vacation in a house at the beach or in a cabin in the forest?
 3. Would you rather go to Chuck E. Cheese or to McDonald's?

W.K.1: Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., My favorite book is...).

RL.K.1: With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.

Would you rather play indoors or outdoors? Why?

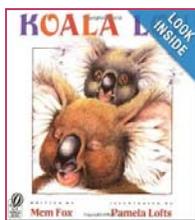
I would rather play indoors. One reason is why because I don't have to take my American Girl Dolls out. Also, I can watch TV. That's why I would rather play indoors.



Text Dependent Questions in Kindergarten:

"I Know this Because..."

When asking students questions about the text, play a game of "I know this because..." During this time, focus on students explaining **why** they know their answers make sense. If the question for the book, *Koala Lou*, by Mem Fox was "Why did Koala Lou enter the Bush Olympics?" A student's answer might be "to get her mom to say she loves her" and then add "I know this because the illustration shows Koala Lou sitting away from her family all sad and lonely while her mom looks so busy taking care of all of the babies in the family. Her mom does not have time to tell her she loves her." We want to encourage students to prove their answers through the use of the text and the illustrations. We want students to be closely looking at and reading the text to develop comprehension.



Parent Engagement:

As part of students' homework, have the students ask their families these same types of "Would you rather..." questions. Have the students survey their family members and record why each member has that opinion. Students can bring in this information and discuss it in small groups in order to compare and contrast their families' opinions!



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