

The Kindergarten Chronicles

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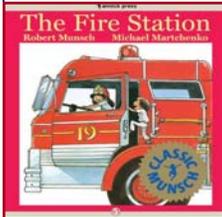
What is your opinion?... teaching kindergarteners to write their opinion

During this trimester, students are to explore a number of books by an author and then learn to express their opinion about a book, through writing. In order to teach this standard, I first began by reading a number of books by Robert Munsch. I wanted my students to observe his humorous style of writing, his use of repetition, and his use of sound words (onomatopoeia) within a text. After reading many books simply for enjoyment and to analyze his style of writing, I selected two of my students' favorite Munsch books, *The Fire Station* and *The Paper Bag Princess*. I then asked the students to pick which one of the books they liked the best. In addition, I asked the students to give examples from the book to support why they preferred the specific book. As kinder teachers, we want to encourage the students to not only **state** their opinion on a topic, but to also **support** their opinion, with examples from the text. In order to scaffold your students, you may want to have them orally share first. This oral sharing can be done with a partner or in small groups. This will help prepare your students to put their opinions into writing.

I like the Fire Station.
One reason I like it is because it makes you whunder at the end. When the police station. Also because their parents forgot who the kids are because they got so dirty from a fire and I also because the kids lived in the bath tub for a few days because they were so dirty. This is why I like the Fire Station.

Parts of an Opinion Piece of Writing:

1. An opening that states the writer's opinion.
2. One or two examples from the text that support the writer's opinion. Encourage the students to include details from the text.
3. A closing that restates the writer's opinion.



Encourage the students to use words such as *because, also, another reason*, etc. This will help their ideas to connect and their writing to flow.



I like The Paper Bag Princess.
One reason I like it is because the dragon burned her clothes. This is why I like the Paper Bag Princess.

* The students wrote these opinion pieces on their own, without dictation, and over several class lessons. The students used the classroom word wall, word banks from the author study, and environmental print. The writing process was used, with students creating one sentence at a time.

WORDO

have	come	was
you	play	one
two	friend	look

WORDO....a word wall game

An easy and engaging way to practice sight words with your students is to give them a blank WORDO board. Students then choose words that they can read from the word wall to fill in the blank board. I give the students cubes for markers and then call out words from the word wall. The students are recognizing words, writing words, and reading words! This is such a better learning tool than giving them a premade bingo board. You can always make your board with more squares on it, as the students get ready for a greater challenge! Let's play WORDO!!!

W.K.7 Students will explore a number of books by an author and express an opinion about them in writing.
RF.K.3c Students will read common words.

Parent Engagement:

We want to encourage parents to ask their child his/her opinion about books. As parents read to and with their child, encourage them to ask their child's opinion about the story when finished. Some questions parents can ask are as follows:

- What did you think about this book?
- What part in the story made you feel that way?
- Is there another reason that you felt this way?



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