



November 29, 2023

Mr. Looney Observation

Classics

SUPER WARM IN THIS ROOM – I totally understand this predicament though as I have started many schools in churches and tried to find space to work. My last private school housed my office in the nursery! I understand your challenge!

I am sorry I was a bit late to the beginning of your class. As I entered the scholars were reading a story out of their classic's reader. They were then given an assignment is to write a story using the moral that was just read.

Suggestion: This is where we would incorporate **narration first**. After the story is read, have scholars close their books and simply say, "Iggy, please narrate," he gives his best narration and then you ask the other class members if there is anything they would like to add, etc.

I am wondering about: writing posture – "Ready to write class" – feet flat, back against the back of the chair, desk cleared off except what is required for the lesson (Mya can't put her notebook on the desk due to her popper being on the desk, help her to find a space where she can place that when she needs her desk space to work.)

Iggy has feet on the chair, Mya is laying on her book. James is standing. If scholars stand, they need a desk at the proper height to be writing. He is leaning over on his elbows to write. James and Iggy need to not be playing with their chairs while writing.

I am wondering about: note booking and writing standards/expectations: Mya/Iggy are not holding their pencils properly. James is a bit better, but not great. Iggy is using a pen. Does note booking require a pencil? Using a particular process? Skipping lines, but not holding book with free hand. Henry did not skip lines.

Any word scholars want to add to their story that is found in their text should be spelled correctly. They can use the text as a dictionary to check their spelling. A reminder once they get going is beneficial.

Suggestion: after narration, get the scholars out of their chairs and have a small brainstorming session. What kinds of characters can we come up with? What kinds of situations can we come up with? Write them all over the board to get their juices going. Then they have a starting point for their own story. Also, incorporate any vocabulary from the week.

Asking for a simile and a metaphor was EXCELLENT. As a helper for scholars, have the class define what they are and then write them on the board. This way, if a scholar asks if this or that is a simile, you can have them refer to the board to determine it themselves. This kind of practice leads them into becoming responsible for their own learning and if there are examples on the board with the definitions, we are now training them to refer to an exemplar. **Great reminder of its and it's while they are writing!**



Assisting parents and education professionals in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

Excellent time management for them with a 2-minute warning, and requiring them to write the moral in cursive. “Draw a picture on the other side if you are finished” was another excellent idea.

Suggestion: When scholars are done, they can peer review and look for the simile, metaphor, or onomatopoeia that is present in their neighbor’s work. They can also check for spelling and punctuation. Second graders are doing this with sentences at this point.

Excellent having scholars to share what they wrote. Holding each accountable and not letting them opt out. It is so wonderful to have a small class like this! However, even with 20 you can make the time for all to share so no one is opting out of the activity. Great work by your scholars!

When scholars are sharing, teach them to be still and project their voices. It may be helpful to place a piece of paper on the floor, have the scholar stand on it and let them know they cannot come off the paper. It helps them to begin the necessary physical body training to be able to present. Iggy was swinging his book back and forth and it was difficult for him to read his own creation. If they hold their book out in front of them they can look forward and project their voices better. Recipe book stands make for a great book holder, or paper holder so scholars can read and project.

The entire class could be memorizing a part of scripture that they will recite. If they do, they will need to learn proper stance to not be distracting to others.

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