Mini-Lessons to Incorporate with Independent Reading

Procedural Mini-Lessons

- Where to sit during reading time
- Giving a book talk
- How to be a good listener in a share session
- What is an appropriate noise level during reading time
- What to do when you finish a book
- What kinds of questions to ask during a share session
- Running a small group share session
- Self-evaluation
- Getting ready for a conference
- How to have a peer conference
- Where to sit during mini-lessons
- Taking care of books
- Keeping track of books read
- Rules of the workshop

Literary Mini-Lessons

- Difference between fiction and non-fiction books
- Learning from dedications
- Books that show emotion
- Books written in the first, second, or third person
- Author studies
- How authors use quotations
- How the story setting fits the story
- Characteristics of different genres
- Development of characters, plot, theme, mood
- How leads can hook us
- How authors use the problem/event/solution pattern
- Titles and their meanings
- Characters’ points of view
- Examples of similes and metaphors
- How authors use dialogue
- Predictable and surprise endings
- Use of descriptive words and phrases
- How illustrations enhance the story
Strategy/Skills Mini-Lesson

- How to choose a book
- Selecting literature log topics
- Connecting reading material to your own life
- Tips for reading aloud
- Figuring out unknown words
  - Using context
  - Substituting
  - Using picture clues
  - Using the sounds of blends, vowels, contractions, etc.
- Using Post-its to mark interesting parts
- Monitoring comprehension (Does this make sense and sound right?)
- Asking questions while reading
- Making predictions
- Emergent strategies
  - Concept of story
  - Concept that print carries meaning
- Making sense
- Mapping a story
- How to retell a story orally
- Looking for relationships
- Looking for important ideas
- Making inferences
- Drawing conclusions
- Summarizing a story
- Distinguishing fact from opinion
- Emergent reader skills: directionality, concept of “word”, sound/symbol relationships