

# PULASKI ELEMENTARY

*fall 2024*



**YVETTE ROCK**



**I had the privilege  
of observing Ms.  
Mary Espina at  
Pulaski Elementary!**

**Pulaski is located on the  
East Side of Detroit.**

**ELA**  
**Grade 3 & 4**

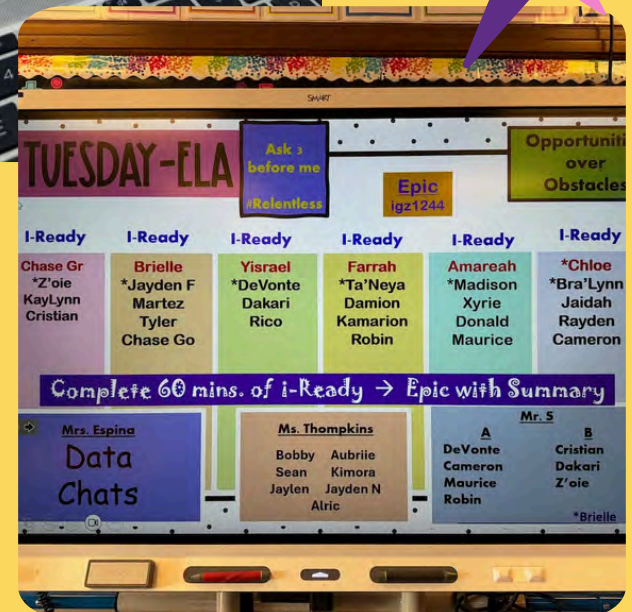
**Ms. Espina has been  
teaching for over 25  
years!**

# iReady is part of the required curriculum

Students are grouped in three tiers (though they aren't told this on any regular basis. It's more for the teacher to keep in mind). The tiers are Panther (top), Lions (1 yr behind), and Cubs (2 or more years behind). There's also a Cub Club who are students who really need help with reading and writing.

On my first day, I observed and helped the Specials teacher, Ms. Thompkins who oversees a lot of their iReady work. I helped the kids with social interactions (they argued a lot). I connected eventually with one of the students who asked me to sit with her and help her with her lessons.

Ms. Espina is an amazing teacher. The class size is so huge I was amazed at how much she could get done! She regularly asks questions and checks for understanding. Students read a loud, respond to their peers, and "turn & talk".

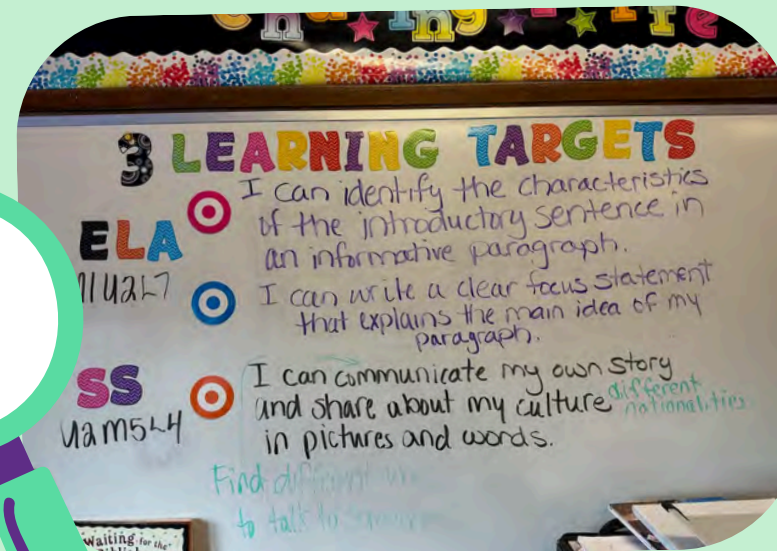
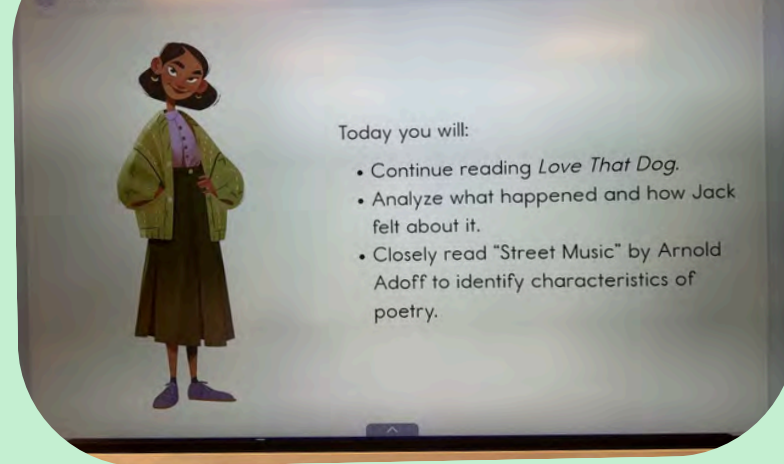




# CLASSROOM

## Set Up

- Learning targets posted everyday
- Examples of writing on walls
- Smart board utilized to guide learning sequence
- Tables set up with supplies for easy access
- Brightly lit room & colorful signs





Ms. Espina has coordinated regular visits from the Detroit Public Library's Book Mobile! Students can check out a book and return it the next time the mobile comes. Kids were really excited to get a book. When they returned to class, they could spend some time looking over and reading their books. I observed that some students got books way above their reading level, while others got books at their level and were able to enjoy reading. I wonder if there's a way to help kids get books they can read?



○ **BOOK MOBILE!**



# “Maybe Something Beautiful Reading Aloud

I asked Ms. Espina if I could teach a short lesson. I decided to use a small section from my DAE-407 lesson plan! I read the book aloud and posted photos of each page on the smart board. Students were really into the book and had questions along the way. I taught it to the 3rd graders then had feedback from Ms. Espina about how I could improve and make it a better lesson. After incorporating her advice, my lesson with the 4th graders was a ton better! I asked the kids more questions, I stopped more frequently as I read aloud, and overall, the kids were more engaged and interactive!



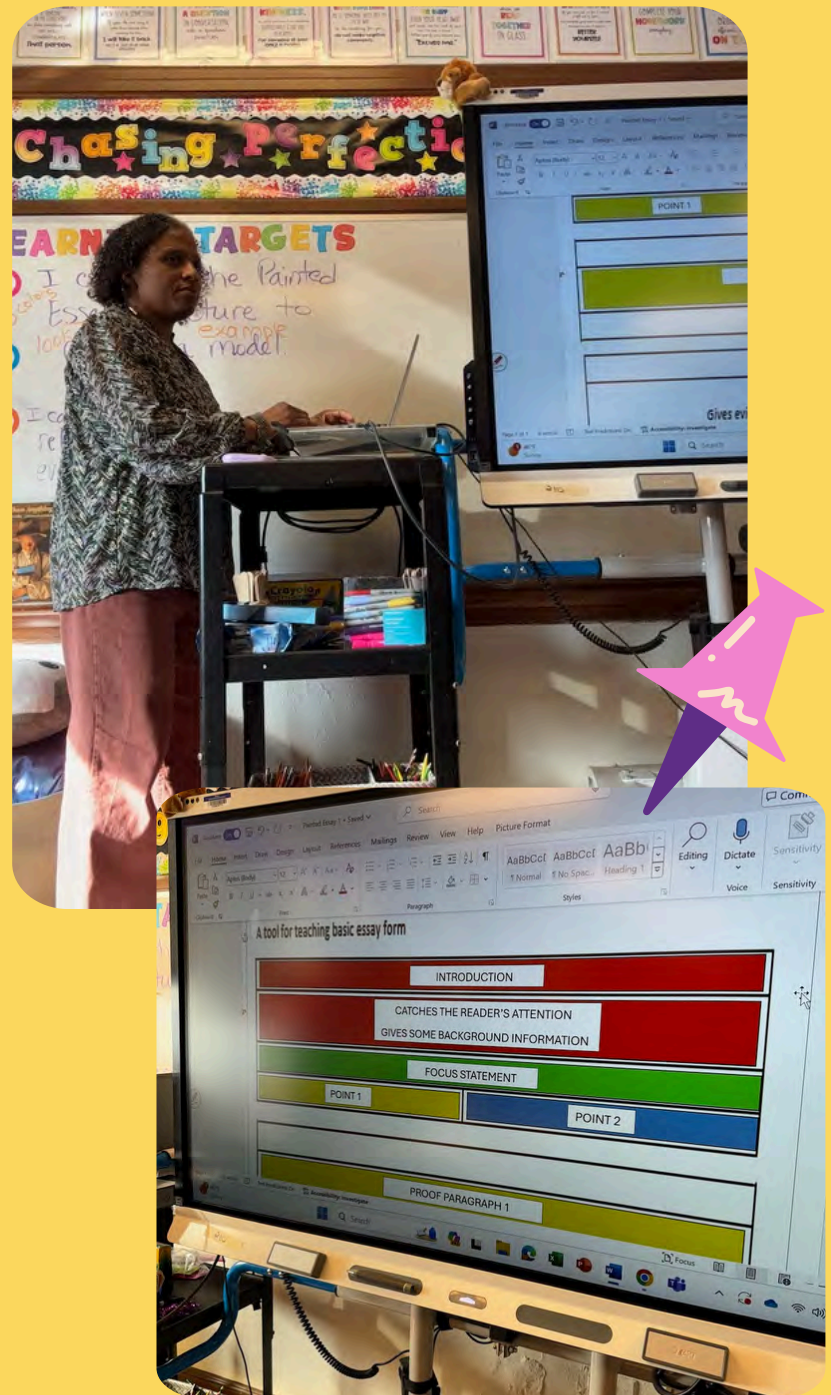
## Ms. Espina's Feedback:

- Ask questions during reading
- Make connections during reading
- Elaborate when they ask questions
- Assume they don't know
- Explain details
- Model
- Ask, "What do you wonder?"
- Simplify
- Integrate social studies



## Ways I assisted in the classroom:

- General management
- Walked around to help any kids who needed assistance
- Assisted Ms. Thompkins
- Distributed supplies
- Helped with a recess time outside
- Assisted with their watercolor color coding lesson
- Worked 1:1 with kids
- Maintained good rapport with kids and staff
- Arrived on time and ready to help
- Purchased the “Maybe Something Beautiful” book for a student Ms. Thompkins has been working with (Amelia is an artist and doesn’t verbalize much, but Ms. Thompkins is encouraging her to express herself through art).





ELA 11:50 - 1:40 Gr.4 10/8/2024

3 Tiers

Panthers (Top - near or @ grade level)

Lions (1 yr behind)

Cubs (2 or more yrs behind in reading)

Cub club (bottom level - 1:1 extra help)

→ Ms. Thompkins pulls them out  
several special ed students

Academic  
Interventionist

Students have computers

iReady - 60 min plwk required

Ms. E says reading level often accompanied  
by behavior issues.

7 students

Takes time for them to settle w/computers.

Normally does phonics.

Kids yell & argue.

"OG" - phonics program

\*No Art teacher\*

I helped students with behavior & reading.

Worked additional 1:1

Student mixes "d" and "b"

Connected w/ Aurbrige. Helped her calm  
down & do her iReady. She asked me to  
sit w/her for the next class.



Uses projection/Smart TV

Teacher counts down: "I'm at 5, I'm at 4, ..." while students also raise hands silently and count down

Book: Sharon Creech Love That Dog

Teacher explains what's happening.  
Thumbs up to check for understanding.

Reading of the Day "Tell Mrs. Rock a summary..."

\* Student asked to summarize what they've read using your own words

Can s/o "add on"?

Student reads aloud - student told it's not a summary, but acknowledges poem read.

\* Teacher asks specific questions to guide answers that lead to summary.

Teacher reads aloud. pg 25

\* How is Jack feeling in the pages we just read? What is happening? Do you have text evidence?



1 sleeping student zzz

Teacher instructs kids to quietly talk to each other abt what was just read.

Teacher randomly selects student from popsicle stick bin to answer question.

<sup>Jack</sup>  
~~Christian~~ put parts of Frost's poem into his writing.

\* Jack is using text evidence ~~from~~ his poem!  
student makes connection!

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"Everyone stand up."

Go Noodle break - dance break

Mrs Thompson's kids still expected to read same book & "tap out" words they don't know.

Students asked to read learning target aloud.

"What does inspire mean?"

\* Turn & Talk

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\* Analyzing Poetry

How is Jack inspired by his poetry?



certains parts of  
No page numbers in book.

1<sup>st</sup> reading - teacher reads aloud

2<sup>nd</sup> reading - co-reading. Teacher reads 1<sup>st</sup>  
& students copy immediately after.

2 min

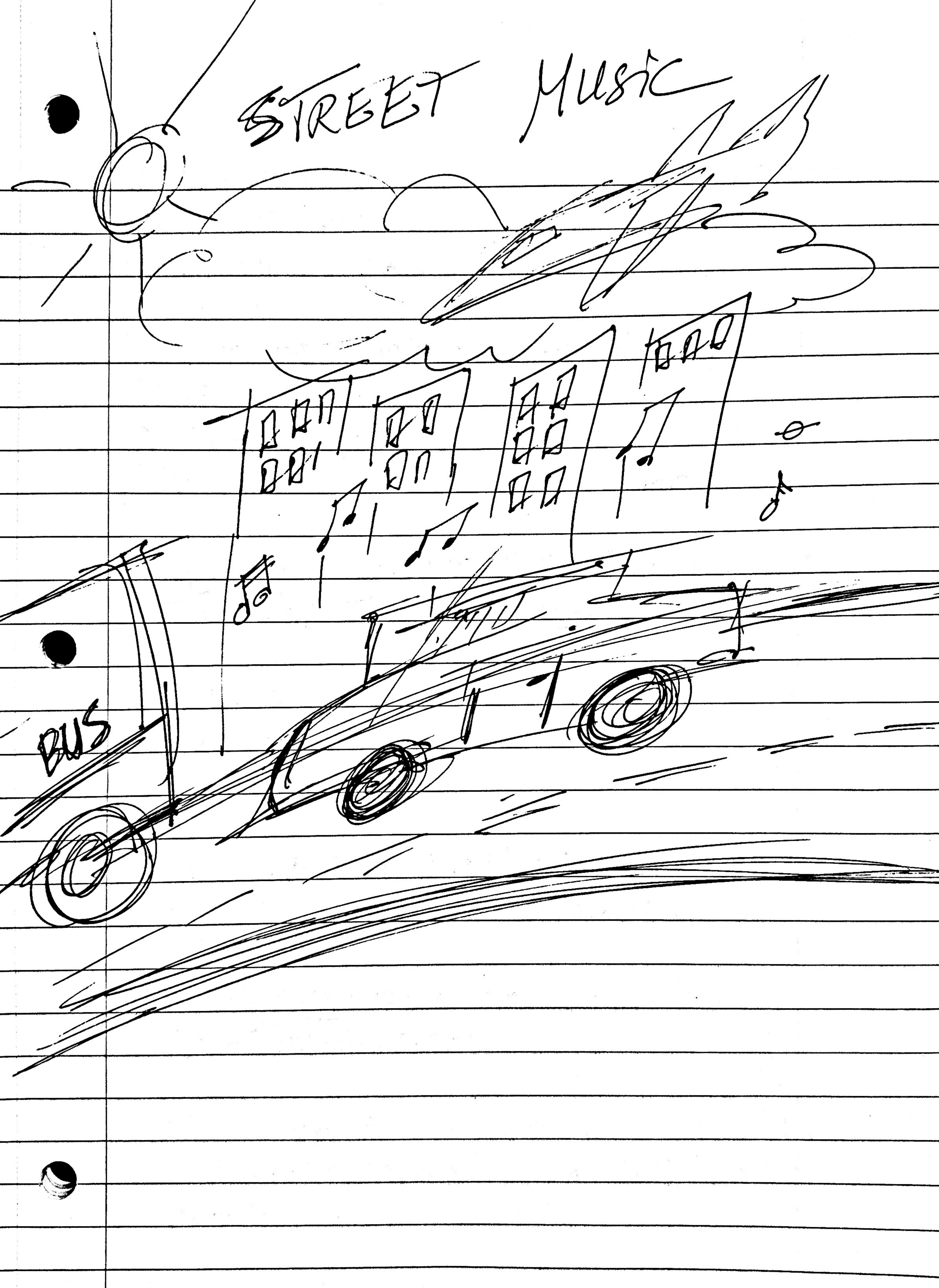
Draw what this poem is about.

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Clean up order



# STREET MUSIC





ELA Grade 3

10/15/2024

97% AA 3% OTHER

Mobile library / Book mobile

LT: analyze an informative @ alb Kenya.

Read LT aloud

Define analyze

Breakdown vocab - discussion

Engaging the writer: Self-Assessing skills.

Thumbs up, Thumbs to side, Thumbs down

Sentence

Short response

Paragraph

Calls students up to read definitions.

Expectation: 5 or more sentences.

Quietly talk & share about what they've been learning about.

LT: I can identify the characteristics of the introductory sentence(s) in an informative paragraph.



Teacher constantly defines words  
in LTs to make sure students  
understand.

Kids had a chance to check out a  
book from book mobile.

I offered to help log in books ~~and~~  
~~supervise kids in~~



11:50-1:50

10/22/2024

Took kids out for recess. procedure for everything to help with management.

Sign?

iReady - 60 min required.

ILC - Reading Platform

Imagine Learning Classroom


- Students work at all different and individualized lessons in iReady. Some work on vocabulary, others on comprehension, & a few work on phonics.
- Students took tests to determine iReady level

Love that dog book by Sharon Creech  
"My Sky" poem

anxiety  
envious

Worked 1:1





3<sup>rd</sup> grade 9:30 - 11 Lunch Prep 4<sup>th</sup> gr. 11:50 - 10/29/2024  
Maybe Something Beautiful Lesson prep

### Feedback

Ask questions during the reading.

Make connections during the reading.

Elaborate when they ask questions

Drawing them into the book

Assume they don't know.

Explain details

Show transformation

Needed more explaining.

Modeling

What do you wonder?

Timing

Simplify

Extended activity.

Integrate Social Studies (where is California?)

Anyone who has an IP can't get failing grade.  
Autistic kids can't fail > C

- vocab first

- Cover Book

See-Think-Wonder / Get out pouch w/ crayons

Colors - Shape - Lines / Fill hand out

As I read book Aloud, pay attention to:

Colors, shapes, lines, what you think

is beautiful, & how you see transformation.

\* Draw directly on smart board!



Writing  
LT. Contract

11/13/2024

Recall "what are our struggles  
w/ writing?"

Asks student to recall challenge -  
what was our strategy for reading  
long words?

Context clues - reminds them of  
definition.

Break down into syllables  
prefixes suffixes

Focus statement

Gives example

Color coded paragraph into parts

Intro

Focus Statements, Proof

Conclusion

Student reads it aloud  
what was the gist. "Talk & Turn"

Today I assisted with presentation

(initiated to ~~create~~ add color fields  
for writing/color assignment)

assisted  
w/ water  
color  
&  
materials  
distributed