



## Writer's Workshop



Did you know that writing in first grade is more than just handwriting? While in first grade students have the opportunity to learn how to express their thoughts through writing while using basic writing elements.

First Grade students' skills develop at different rates. The goal, therefore, is to move students through the writing process by guiding them to use phonetics to sound out words, copy and use sight words in meaningful ways, create an awareness of punctuation, and refer to outside resources for spelling corrections. First Graders enjoy writing about familiar topics, using the power of their words to express thoughts, and having the opportunity to share their stories with classmates.

Writer's Workshop is also used with reading activities to create a powerful motivating tool when teaching literacy. A teacher can quickly see which words a student knows by what they write; a teacher can see how a child approaches organization of thought by how a student presents ideas in a story and a teacher can see how a student's abilities grow through the year by the progression of plot and text in their writing.

During Writer's Workshop students will experience:

**A Mini-Lesson:** During this time the teacher models good writing behavior while focusing on a specific skill.

**Writing & Conferencing:** Following the mini lesson students are given time to write their own stories or responses. The teacher will meet with students during this time to reinforce good writing behaviors.

**Sharing:** The final step of Writer's Workshop allows the students to share with the class what they have written during writing time.