Responsive Classroom

Morning Meeting

Weekly Skills

Note: When it is used correctly, Morning Message can be the English Language Arts equivalent of Calendar Math. It provides a wonderful opportunity to introduce and review skills on an ongoing basis. The sample messages are suggestions only. Feel free to include any skills you are studying in your messages. These letters are representative of the most basic message with one or two skills included.

Idea for Teaching Skills During Morning Meeting

Greetings

Alliteration – Each student takes the first letter of their first name and thinks of another descriptive word that starts with the same letter. Ex. Darling Darla, Creative Caleb, or Jazzy Jade. Then they will use these names when they greet each other.

Activities

Adventure Stories – Use story starters and each child contributes one sentence to the story. Teacher would start: “Once there was a three-headed dragon named Trevor who wanted to travel the world. First, he went to Hawaii and learned how to surf.” Then each child would contribute a sentence while the teacher records. The teacher also provides the ending line. Can be used in literacy stations for editing and publishing.

Suffixes – Cards are created with base words on some and suffixes on others. Distribute and students must match card to card to create new words. Several combinations should be possible.

Sequence – Use story sequence cards and place them in order and summarizing skills to explain cards after they are in order. This can be used in stations.

Who Am I – Teacher creates cards with the names of special people, places or things. These should relate to topics of study. Teacher writes the names on cards and tapes them to the back of a student. The student then goes to the center of the circle and turns so everyone can see what is written on the card. The child in the center then answers “yes” and “no” questions until they can guess who, where or what they are.
Double This, Double That – The original activity can be found in “Energizers! 88 Quick Movement Activities That Refresh and Refocus.” The song goes like this:

“Double, Double, this, this
Double, Double, that, that
Double this, double that,
Double, double, this, that”

The lyrics can be changed to include many skills from math to language, rhyming words to vocabulary. Ex:

Double double two two    Double double three three
Double double four four    Double double six, six
Double two Double Four    Double three, double six
Double double two four!    Double double three six

Double double snow snow    Double double nice nice
Double double man man    Double double twice twice
Double snow, double man    Double nice, double twice
Double double snowman    Double double nice twice

Sharing

Composing Oral Sentences – Direct students who are sharing to compose their ideas into one main idea and two supporting details. The rest of the class may make a comment but not a question.
August Week Two

Skills – handshake, eye contact, making group rules, word structure, cause and effect, composing oral sentences, suffixes, sequence.

August Week Three

Skills – Review Group rules, kinds of sentences, text features, sequence, subjects and predicates.

August Week Four

Skills – Context clues, character, setting, plot, author’s purpose, commas, steps to creative writing.

August Sample Letter

Date
Dear New Fourth Graders,
   Welcome to our Fourth Grade classroom! Today is __________.
We will all have a chance to share this morning. Think about the most fun activity you had this summer. First, we will create our Morning Meeting expectations. Finally, we will have an activity exploring c____ and e_____. Make ______ choices and have a _______ day.
   Love,
   Ms. Jones

Fill in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eat a healthy breakfast</td>
<td>Have energy to do work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________________________</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take a daily vitamin</td>
<td>Keeps the cavities away</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________________________</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studying and doing homework</td>
<td>____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>____________________________</td>
<td>Builds muscle and endurance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
September Week One

Skills – Suffixes, quotation marks, commas, incomplete sentences, alliteration.

September Week Two

Skills - Alliteration, text features, writing a biographical sketch

September Week Three

Skills – Prefixes, suffixes, common/proper nouns, cause and effect

September Week Four

Skills – Character, plot, setting, singular and plural nouns, dictionary/glossary

**September Sample Letter**

Dear Stupendous Students,

Today is ________, and ________ is the message leader. ________, ________, and ________ will share. Let’s think about the story/book we are currently reading. Be ready to discuss the characters, s______ and p____ of our story. Here is a quote from our story/book, “____________________________________________.”

Think about the meaning behind this quote and we will share ideas in the meeting. Make ______ choices and have a ________ day.

Love,

Ms. Jones

Fill in our table of common and proper nouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common</th>
<th>Proper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>Poodle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_________</td>
<td>Memphis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
October Week One

Skills – Steps to creative writing, cause and effect, alliteration

October Week Two

Skills - Word structure, answer questions, compare/contrast

October Week Three

Skills – Words in context, fact and opinion, analogies, possessive nouns.

October Week Four

Skills – Dictionary/Glossary, transitional words, plural possessive nouns, metaphor, imagery, rhyme

October Sample Letter

Date

Dear (alliteration),

Today is _________ and _________ is the morning message leader. _________, _________, and _________ will share. (School’s name) ‘s student are the smartest around.

Let’s create an analogy using the word “smart”:

Smart : intelligent :: bright : clever (leave one of these blank)

You all are the bright sunshine is this classroom. Make _________

Choices and have a ____________ day.

Love,
Ms. Jones

Find a rhyming word to fill in the blanks:

Dog  1.  2.  3.
Love 1.  2.  3.
Play 1.  2.  3.
Teach 1.  2.  3.
Slip 1.  2.  3.
Run 1.  2.  3.
November Week One
Skills – metaphor, imagery, rhyme, possessive nouns, analogies, words in context, fact and opinion

November Week Two
Skills – analogies, cause and effect, text features, action and linking verbs.

November Week Three
Skills - Homonyms, fact and opinion, main verb/helping verb, writing poetry.

November Week Four
Skills – subject verb agreement, text features, context clues, fact and opinion.

November Sample Letter

Dear (rhyming words),
    Today is ________ and _________ is the morning message leader. ________, ________, and _________ will share. Think about one fact that you can share about (topic in S.S. or Science). We will be continuing our study of ________ in math. Make ________choices and have a ________day.

                Love,
                Ms. Jones

Create a web below of the text features we have discussed:
December Week One

Skills – Bases and affixes, graphic sources, making predictions, verb tenses, compound words.

December Week Two

Suffixes, generalizations, regular verbs, possessives, reading a schedule

December Week Three

Skills – review all skills that need extra attention, poetry – imagery, metaphor.

**December Sample Letter**

Date

Dear Outdoor Athletes,

Today is __________ and __________ is the morning message leader. We will do an All-Around share this morning. Start thinking about what your plans are for the break and be ready to share. (something about what you are studying in class). Make __________ Choices and have a _____________ day.

Love,

Ms. Jones

Read the poem and think about the lines that rhyme. Be ready to discuss your opinion of this poem.

“The time has come”,
The Walrus said,
“To speak of many things.
Of shoes and ships, and sealing wax,
Of cabbages and kings.
And when the sea is boiling hot,
And whether pigs have wings!”
January Week One

Skills – Context clues, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, compare/contrast, pronouns, contractions, instructions in order.

January Week Two

Skills – Context clues, dictionary/glossary, compare/contrast, editing, revising, publishing.

January Week Three

Skills – Dictionary/glossary, characters, setting, characteristics of a play, simile, metaphor, verbs.

January Week Four

Skills – Word structure/Greek and Latin roots, graphic sources, editing, revising, publishing, irregular verbs.

January Sample Letter

Date

Dear Running, Jumping, Climbing Students,

Today is __________ and __________ will be the morning message leader. __________, __________, and __________ will share. What is the difference between a simile and a metaphor? Can you think of any similes and metaphors of your own? We will continue our (name of a project you are working on). Make __________ choices and have a __________ day.

Love,
Ms. Jones

Complete the chart below on antonyms and synonyms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Antonym</th>
<th>Synonym</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Happy</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February Week One
Skills – Context clues, synonyms, antonyms, plot, text features/ graphic sources, contractions.

February Week Two
Skills – Poetry/simile, usage errors, double negatives, troublesome words.

February Week Three
Skills – Context clues, homophones/homographs, author’s purpose, making predictions, adjectives and articles.

February Week Four
Skills – Word structure/Greek and Latin roots, compare/contrast, comparative and superlative adjectives.

February Sample Letter

Dear (insert two adjectives) Children,

Today is ___________ and ___________ is the leader of the morning message. ___________, ___________, and ___________ will share.

What is the difference between a homophone and a homograph? Think about this and be ready to discuss it in morning meeting. Make ________ choices and have a ________ day.

Love,
Ms. Jones

On the graphic organizer below compare and contrast pizza and tacos:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Compare</th>
<th>Contrast</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
March Week One

Skills - Context clues, sequence, story structure, main idea, adverbs, adjectives.

March Week Two

Skills – Word structure, words with Latin roots, main idea and details, comparative and superlative adverbs.

March Week Three

Skills – Related words, draw conclusions, context clues, revising, editing, publishing, usage errors.

**Sample March Letter**

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Date

Dear (two adjectives) Students,

Today is _______ and ________ is the morning message leader. ________,
________, and ________ will share. What plans do you have for S____ B____?
Be ready to share your plans in the circle. (Include a S.S. or Science statement).
Make __________ decisions and have a __________ day!

Love,

Ms. Jones

Include some details for these main ideas:

Pizza is the best food for a party.
1.
2.
3.

Spring Break is a time for fun.
1.
2.
3.
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April Week One

Skills – Poetry/word choice, prewriting, drafting, using a website

April Week Two

Skills – Word structure, cause and effect, fact and opinion, sentence combining, conjunctions.

April Week Three

Skills – Dictionary/glossary, fact and opinion, graphic sources, pre-writing, drafting, capitalization.

April Week Four

Skills – Context clues, character, theme, author’s purpose, friendly letter, capitalization.

**April Sample Letter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dear happy snappy friends,</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>today is __________ and __________ is the leader of the morning message.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>__________, __________, and __________ will share. think of a cause and effect scenario and be ready to discuss them in our circle. we are working on combining sentences this week. We will also be working with the dictionary. make __________ choices and have a __________ day.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Love,

Ms. Jones

Write three facts and three opinions about plants and animals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facts</th>
<th>Opinions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
May Week One

Skills – Context clues, generalization, ask questions, graphic sources, quotations, quotation marks.

May Week Two

Skills – Context clues, homonyms, graphic sources, fact and opinion, titles.

May Week Three

Skills – Unit wrap up, tone, theme, allusion

May Sample Letter

Dear Future Fifth Graders,

Today is _________ and _________ is the leader for the morning message. We will all take part in a Round-Robin Share. We will be discussing ideas about our summer vacation so think of things you can share. We are at the end of our school year and it has been a very busy year. Make __________ choices and have a __________ day.

Love,

Ms. Jones

Create a web of your favorite activities this year: