

From effective to artistic A closer look at a crafting session

Some key ideas for deep structure crafting lessons

- ∞ **thinking aloud** helps children peer into the mind of a proficient reader or writer
- ∞ the **literature** you choose is fundamental to the success of the lesson - select text that is conducive to thinking aloud and select authors whose craft you can scrutinize
- ∞ **clarity** about the teaching intention leads to precise and elegant language in the lesson - precise and elegant language leads to a tone of rigor and intimacy
- ∞ **modeling** from your own experience grounds the lesson in the real world ~ read and write as they children observe
- ∞ help children see **connections** beyond today
- ∞ use **silence** to help children understand the gravity of certain points
- ∞ limit the **focus** of the lesson to one teaching intention unless the goal is to link to previously learned material
- ∞ send them off to **meaningful** independent work

Some key ideas for surface structure crafting sessions

- ∞ thoroughly understand the possibilities and limitations of teaching surface structure skills ~ surface structure strategies are best taught at the moment children need them
- ∞ emphasize **short, engaging** lessons including word play, rhyme, song and games

∞ **focus** on teaching intentions truly needed by the whole class

∞ **record and post** children's learning

∞ encourage children to use posted records when **solving problems** at the word and sentence level

∞ help children see **connections** beyond today

∞ **demonstrate** use of the skill in literature and writing so children can see real world application

∞ send them off to **meaningful** independent work

Keene, 2001