

Mini-Lesson: Using a Mentor Author (2nd Grade)

Intention (Skill): Adding Details, Writing Like a Mentor Author

Teaching Point (Strategy): One way we can write like Patricia Polacco is by describing important things in three different ways.

Connection: Writers, I have heard about all of the great work you guys have been doing in writing. I know that you are trying to study Patricia Polacco to write in powerful ways, just like she does. I think that you're ready to learn another way you can write just like Patricia.

Teach: So today, I want to teach you that another way to write like Patricia Polacco is by describing important things in three ways. Let me show you what I mean. I was reading *Some Birthday* when I first noticed this pattern in Patricia's work. Right here, it says, "There was my dad, soaked to the skin, smelling real bad, covered with bulrushes." Did you notice how she described her dad in THREE ways? She really wants us to picture her dad. She does this in *My Rotten Redheaded Older Brother*, too. "Now my babushka, my grandmother, knew lots of things. She knew just how to tell a good story. She knew how to make ordinary things magical. And she knew how to make the best chocolate cake in Michigan. Again, she described something important (in this case, babushka) in THREE ways. I think you're the kind of writers who are ready to try this in your writing. Let me show you how I tried it. (Share bike story/description.) Did you see how I chose something important in my story and described it in three ways?"

Active Engagement: Now it's your turn to try it. I want you to look at the story you are working on right now. See if you can find a place where you are talking about something or someone important, then try to think of three things you could say to describe it. When you've found it, turn to your partner and write it in the air. (Have a go - restate teaching point!)

Link: Writers, I'm hearing lots of great descriptions! I would love it if you tried this strategy in your writing today. If you think you can try it, would you give me a thumbs-up? I'm going to be looking for some writing to share today. Great! Off you go.