

## Appendix VII

### Writing Workshop Day 1

#### Sample Mini-lesson 1

**Teaching Point:** One way writers get ideas is through sharing the stories of their lives.

Writers get ideas from telling the stories of things that happen to them.

**Connect:** Writers get ideas from telling the stories of things that happen to them. Remember, Jamie Lee Curtis got the ideas in When I Was Little from her own childhood memories. Just like Jamie Lee Curtis, we have many stories to tell and today we are going to tell each other stories from our own lives.

**Teach:** I'm going to tell you a story from my own life and after I tell my story, I'm going to ask you to meet with a small group and share a story of something that happened to you.

“My story took place when I was in kindergarten. I was walking to school with my older sister, Christine. I was walking close to the curb carrying a small, round, glass fishbowl. Inside was the goldfish I had won at the parish festival. I was excited to share “Willie” with my kindergarten class because it was my turn for Show and Tell. Because I was so excited, I wasn't concentrating on walking slowly and carefully. As I was walking, for some reason, I tripped and almost fell. Unfortunately, I dropped the fishbowl and it broke into many pieces. Willie was lying in the gutter in a little pool of water. I wanted to run home and get my mother, but my sister said “no.” She did not want to be late for school and have to get a tardy slip. All day, I felt sad and worried. When it was my turn for Show and Tell, I said I didn't bring anything to share. After what seemed like an endless day, I went home. I told my mother what happened to Willie. She walked back to the spot where the accident happened. To our surprise, Willie was still alive. He was lying in a small amount of water in the gutter. Mom and I rushed home and got another jar with water. We went back to the scene and picked up Willie. He lived another three years after that day!”

**Active Involvement:** Now, close your eyes and think of a story from your life that you want to tell.

**Link:** As you go to work today, sit in small groups and take turns telling your stories. During our Share, I will ask some of you to tell us your story.

## Sample minilesson 2

**Teaching Point:** Writers get ideas from remembering significant moments in their lives

**Connect:** Earlier we enjoyed telling each other stories of our lives as one way to get ideas to write about. Another way to help us remember significant moments in our lives is to draw a graphic representation of our life in the form of a “heart map” or a timeline. When we write about what is deep in our hearts and what really matters to us the writing becomes important and our passions shine through. Today, as one way of surfacing what is important, I will share my “heart” map with you and demonstrate how it led to writing.

**Teach:** Watch as I draw my “heart map”... I’m thinking about significant memories that I want to write or draw inside the heart.... All of these things might trigger ideas to write about later.

**Active Involvement:** Think for a moment about what significant moments you might want to put in your “heart map”. Turn and Talk to your partner about your thoughts.

**Link:** Writers, today you are going to draw a “heart map” in your Writing Notebook and draw or write some significant moments in your life that might trigger future notebook entries. If you finish this, take one of these ideas to write an entry in your notebook. When we share today, a few of you can show your “heart maps” and talk about the possibility of what you included on your map becoming future writing.