

## Appendix

### Writing Workshop Day 8

#### Sample Mini-lesson 13

**Teaching Point:** Writers edit their work in order to make decisions about the use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation that will communicate their ideas to their readers. One way to edit for punctuation is to emulate interesting ways authors use punctuation to enhance their writing.

**Connect:** We know that writers edit their work in order to make decisions about the use of grammar, spelling, and punctuation that will communicate their ideas to their readers. Throughout the year, we've been noticing and talking about how our touchstone authors use punctuation in unusual and interesting ways to augment their writing. Remember when we read Jane Yolen's Owl Moon and we noticed the interesting ways she uses commas to create a slow pace and rhythm in her writing that enhances the patience of the father and child as they trod through snow in search of an owl. Jane Yolen is just one of the many authors whose use of punctuation we've been noticing. Today, we're going to pay close attention to the punctuation we've used in our own writing to make sure we're using it correctly and to emulate interesting ways authors use punctuation that will enhance our writing for the readers.

**Teach:** As we know, good writers edit their work for punctuation by rereading it, checking to see if they've used punctuation correctly, and also asking themselves in what ways punctuation can be used to make the writing more interesting. I'm going to put a copy of my latest draft on an overhead projector and ask you to listen to me as I read it aloud and pay attention, while I think aloud, to the punctuation editing decisions I make. I'll mark the editing changes I make in my writing with a highlighter pen. *Facilitator reads aloud her writing, thinking aloud interesting ways she could incorporate punctuation to support the meaning she wants the reader to linger on. For example, she may add a comma to create a pause or use a semicolon to combine two sentences and break up the rhythm of short, choppy sentences. The editing changes are marked with a highlighter pen. It's important to use punctuation that has previously been discussed by reading authors, learning correct usage, and using the punctuation in one's writing.*

**Active Involvement:** Turn and talk with your partner about the different ways you noticed I used punctuation in purposeful ways to make my writing more interesting.

**Link:** When you're working on your writing today, reread your own drafts and pay attention to ways you can use interesting punctuation to enhance your writing. During share time today, we'll talk about the editing changes you've made and why you think the changes improve your writing for your readers.