

Teacher's Name: Elida Gallegos Grade Level/Subject Taught: MS Literacy 4/5

Lesson Reflection

I think the lesson went well for the most part. I think I spent too much time in the beginning of class talking about what we were going to do and taking them through every step of the assignment before getting them started in their groups. I've already made some notes about chunking out the directions – talking about renaming the chapter and then letting them get to work. When they were finished with that part I could explain the next part, get them going, etc.

I was glad that I spent time on the vocabulary review. I recognized that students had different ideas of what a budget is so we needed to explore that, and then the vocabulary we use often [summary, key quotes, etc] also needed some attention since some students were giving incomplete definitions of those terms.

I was pleased with the titles that the students were creating for their assigned chapter. I was most interested in why they selected the new title since that would tell me if they comprehended the key information. Only one group jumped to a title before actually reviewing the chapter for key information; that was the group that had the chapter originally titled, "No!" They said they found the task easy because that chapter was when Leslie died so they simply renamed the chapter, "The end of Leslie." Later that afternoon – after the observation – we worked on this some more and I did spend a little time with that group, asking them to point to specific information from the chapter that influenced their title choice.

The lesson went mostly as planned, but as I said, I wish hadn't spent so much time explaining the whole task at the beginning because it didn't give the students much time to work together and that is really what I wanted. We did go back to the assignment later in the day and some of the students were able to complete their summaries. I've brought those with me because I thought you'd be interested in seeing them. They had very good discussions about what they thought was the key information in the chapter – some groups had trouble agreeing on that, but they did finally come to agreement and wrote their summaries. I was also pleased that they really used one another and worked collaboratively – that is always a goal of mine; I didn't have to spend a lot of time explaining the task or helping them because they helped one another and came up with a good draft.

Tomorrow we will finish and exchange the summaries among the groups so they can get feedback and revise the summary before they add it to their Budget Tour. What you are seeing are their drafts. Tomorrow they will also get to the graphic. They seem excited about this – I think it goes back to the fact that they all really like this book.