Unit 1- The Classroom Community

Content Area: **Language Arts**
Course(s): **E/LA 3**
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **3 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Essential Questions

- How can I participate in a writing community?
- How can I learn from the writing practices of professional authors?
- How can I use prewriting and freewriting activities to develop my writing?
- How can I use my interests to generate writing ideas?

Big Ideas

- Building a Classroom Community
- Examining the Work of Professional Authors
- Prewriting Techniques
- Generating Writing Ideas
- Building Writing Stamina

Handwriting and Spelling

Handwriting:

Introduce all of the cursive letters using the Fountas & Pinnell Word Work Lessons. Letters are grouped according to similarities in how they are formed. After introducing the letters and practicing them, model how to connect letters.

Spelling:

Spelling words taken from the Fountas & Pinnell High-Frequency Word List for Grade 4. Spelling Notebooks are used for in-class practice. One formal 20-word spelling test will be given at the end of this unit. (Two

formal spelling tests will be given each marking period. Writing rubrics also assess spelling.)

Enduring Understandings

Writing

W.RW.4.7 Write routinely over extended time frames (with time for research and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Foundational Skills: Writing Language

Spelling

L.WF.4.2 Demonstrate command of the conventions of encoding and spelling.

L.WF.4.2.C Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

Sentence Composition (Grammar, Syntax, and Punctuation)

L.KL.4.1 Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.

L.KL.4.1.A Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

L.KL.4.1.B Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.

L.KL.4.1.C Choose punctuation for effect.

Resources

Being a Writer: Unit 1 Teacher's Manual

Collaborative Classroom Learning Portal (Digital Resources)

Texts:

- Dreamers by Yuyi Morales
- "Why Dreamers?" (Video)

- Grandma’s Gift by Eric Velasquez
- “About Eric Velasquez” by Carrie Gentner
- Do You Know Where the Animals Live? Discovering the Incredible Creatures All Around Us by Peter Wohlleben