

Dog Story - K-1-2 Class Book

The teacher explains that we are writing a class book and every one will have a special page of their own to write and illustrate.

The teacher says "I will start, and then one of you will go next, and we will keep going until everyone has had a turn. Just raise your hand when you want to go next. I wrote the first page already and illustrated it. This will be my page in our book."

Teacher starts by reading her page on the chart:

A little puppy named Dodger wanted to know where the big dogs went when they were hooked up to the sled. So, one day he followed them out on the trail. But, they were too fast and he got left behind, and was out on the trail all alone.

The teacher looks for a hand-up and selects the first child. The teacher listens to the child and then writes what they said on the second page of the chart, and puts the child's name on their page.

Before going on, the teacher re-reads both her page and the first child's page. This will be the pattern: always go back and start from the beginning and read each page already written before adding the next page. The children will hear and see the book several times this way, and will have little trouble reading it themselves when they receive their copy. Also, they love to see their page when it comes up.

Continue on with each child adding a page to the story. The teacher helps direct if the topic goes astray, by asking questions like, "would he really do that?", "Why would he see that in the woods?", etc. Try to use the child's words when possible, or rephrase it for them correctly and ask if that's how they want it, before putting it on the page.

At the end of the story, the teacher takes each page off the chart and gives it to the child who wrote it to illustrate. Then, when everyone is done, the teacher puts it together and binds it into a Big class book. This will be read many times at story time or independent reading time.

Variation: To make small books, so each child can have their own copy to take home, use regular typing paper to write on and illustrate. Use the same process as above when writing it. When everyone is finished with their illustrations, and the pages are all put back in order, the pages can be copied on the copier then stapled into individual books.