

Second Grade Writing Prompt

The Polar Express

By

Chris Van Allsburg



Photo Credit: <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/features/thepolarexpress/>

We read the story, The Polar Express, to our second graders. We discussed the story. Instead of ending our prompt with the boy going to bed, we had our students pretend they were the little boy and he went with Santa Claus on his trip around the world. In our story web, the students used their senses to tell us:

- 1. what they did*
- 2. what they saw*
- 3. what they heard*
- 4. what they smelled*

Author's Note

Kathy and Deb are second grade teachers. Much of our curriculum is done by co-teaching, such as this lesson plan. We are involved in many school committees, such as Universal Design for Learning Team, Student Support Team, Student Improvement Team, Social Committee, and various offices in our School Association.



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Introduction to This Lesson

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4. what they smelled

~Targeted~
Indiana Academic
State Standards

Language Arts

2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.5, 2.5.2, 2.5.5, 2.5.6, 2.6.1, 2.6.2, 2.6.3, 2.6.4, 2.6.7, 2.6.8, 2.6.9

Social Studies

2.3.3

More information on the Indiana Academic State Standards:

www.indianastandards.org

www.edStandards.org/Standards.html

www.mcrel.org/standards/

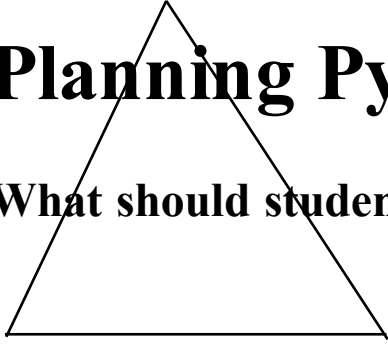
www.doe.state.in.us/standards/

National Educational Technology Standards

<http://www.cnets.iste.org>

Planning Pyramid

What should students know?



Some students will know

How to use descriptive words and move through a logical sequence of events.

Most students will know

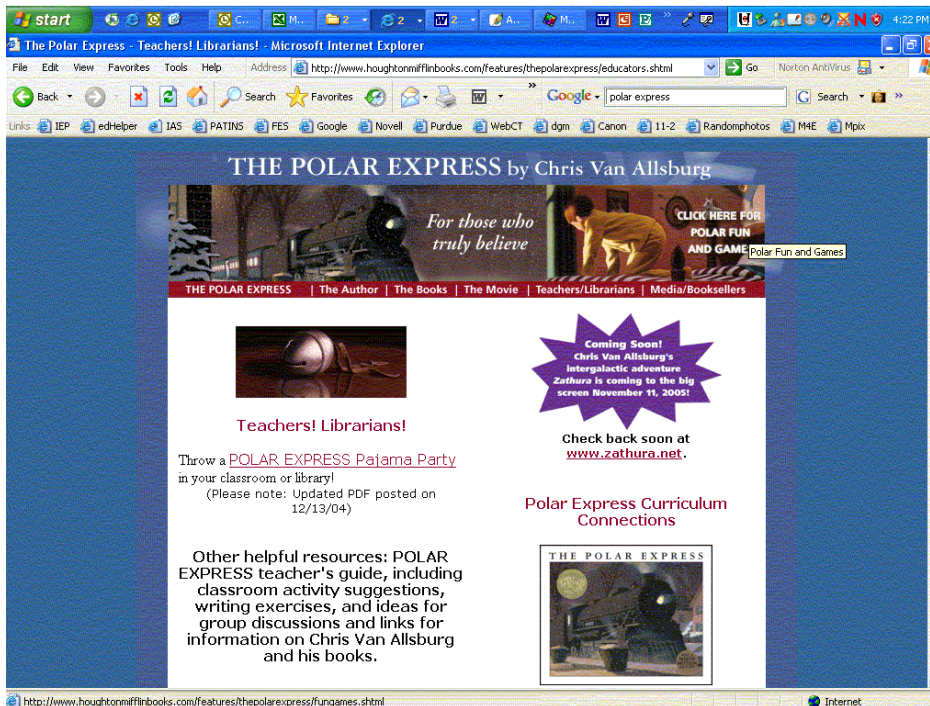
How to proofread their writing, form letters correctly, space words and sentences properly so that writing can be easily read.

All students will know

How to write complete sentences using a subject and verb, capitalization, punctuation correctly spelling words on the word wall.

Teacher/Learner Library

Screen shots and brief descriptions of websites included in this lesson:



www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com

For additional activities across the curriculum.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Assessment

Student knowledge is assessed by using the following rubric

_____ Date _____

WRITING RUBRIC

*Name and date in right
hand corner (5 points)* _____

Title is in center (5 points) _____

*Sentences are complete with
correct grammar (20 points)* _____

Punctuation (10 points) _____

Capital letters (10 points) _____

Sentences stay on topic (10 points) _____

Words have spacing (5 points) _____

*All word wall words are spelled
correctly (10 points)* _____

Neat handwriting (5 points) _____

Content and creativity (20 points) _____

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED _____

LEARNING BARRIER	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS	WEB LINK RESOURCES
Student cannot read at grade level	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Text to Speech Software</i> 2. <i>Utilize Group-Learning Format to have better readers practice reading out-loud</i> 3. <i>Scan in <u>The Polar Express</u></i> 	http://www.readplease.com/ http://www.freedomscientific.com/LSG/products/wynn.asp
Student has difficulty comprehending the material		
Student has difficulty mastering the vocabulary of the unit	1. The students will use their own Spelling Dictionaries and the word wall to help them find words.	
Student needs the instructional material in a language other than English	Text to Speech is easily converted into other Languages, the multiple visual representations of information is also helpful.	
Student has difficulty with handwriting (speed or accuracy)	Students with slow or sloppy handwriting as well as students who have spelling as a barrier to writing will use Co- Writer Software,	http://www.donjohnston.com/catalog/cow4000d.htm
Student needs additional challenge	The student will use the internet to find locations for Santa. Illustrations can also be added.	http://www.google.com/ http://yhooligans.yahoo.com/
Student has difficulty with calculating activities	Not needed for this Lesson	
Student needs help with conducting research	Online Search Engines, great opportunity to teach skills related to online information searching.	http://www.google.com/ http://www.dogpile.com/ http://www.excite.com/ http://yhooligans.yahoo.com/ http://www.kidsclick.org/