Lesson 3: Introduce Your Animal

UNIT: Amani's Animal Rescue

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Jackie. My friend, Walker, can't be here today, so I'm helping him out with this lesson. We're back at Amani's Animal Rescue Center with Amani and all of the animals—flying squirrels, armadillos, kangaroo rats, and more.

In the last lesson, you wrote a first draft with a sentence about each way your animal protects itself. Today, you are going to add sentences at the beginning and end of your draft. But before you start writing, let's see how Amani writes a good beginning sentence.

Before Amani writes his beginning sentence, he needs to remember the sentence he wrote for his first draft. Let's take a look at what he wrote: "The flying squirrel comes out at night. Its big eyes let it see in the dark. The squirrel's claws help it climb trees. The flying squirrel escapes a cat by flying away to another tree."

These sentences might seem to be about three different things—seeing in the dark, climbing trees, and flying from tree to tree—but they are all connected.

Here's a challenge for you. Figure out what idea connects all these sentences. Think about how seeing in the dark, climbing a tree, and flying can help a flying squirrel.

Here's a hint: you need to think about why a flying squirrel needs to do these things.

I'm going to give you thirty seconds to think about this. When you have an idea, show a silent thumbs up.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Why does a flying squirrel need to see in the dark, climb a tree, and fly?

HOOK 2

Here's what Amani thinks: All of these things help a flying squirrel protect itself from hungry cats.The main idea of Amani's sign is: The ways a flying squirrel protects itself.

Each of Amani's sentences tells one part of his main idea. Each sentence tells you just one of the ways flying squirrels can protect themselves. Seeing in the dark helps a squirrel spot a hungry cat even at night. Climbing a tree helps it get away from a cat on the ground. Flying helps it get away from a cat in a tree.

When Amani writes a sign, he wants all his sentences to connect to his main idea. And in his beginning sentence, he wants to tell his readers his main idea. If he doesn't do this, his readers will be confused and wonder how all these sentences connect.

Amani decides to write his beginning sentence with the words, "A flying squirrel," so that visitors know right away that the cute animal they're looking at is a flying squirrel. He wants to use the words protect itself to make sure his readers know his main idea.

Think about how Amani could put his topic, "A flying squirrel," and his main idea, "The ways a flying squirrel protects itself," together into one sentence.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: How could you put the words, "A flying squirrel" and the words "ways to protect itself" together into one sentence? You can take out words or add in new words to make a sentence.

HOOK 3

Here's the sentence Amani came up with first: "A flying squirrel has many ways to protect itself." Maybe you came up with something different. That's okay, too. Amani decided that his sentence would make a good beginning for his sign.

Now it's time for you to write a beginning sentence for your sign.

You'll use Amani's sentence to help you get started. You'll change some of the words in his sentence to make it about your animal, but you'll keep a lot of the words the same. Using someone else's sentence to help you write is a little like riding a bicycle with training wheels. It helps you learn to write, so you'll be able to write on your own.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies. You'll need two worksheets from the last time and one new worksheet.

Stack your papers with the First Draft sheet on top.

When you're ready, click the arrow on the right to move on to the next step.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need a partner to share ideas with. When everyone has a partner, click the arrow on the right to move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Look at your First Draft worksheet.

Take turns reading your sentences aloud to your partner. Think about how each sentence connects to your main idea—the ways your animal protects itself.

When everyone is ready, click the arrow to go on to the next step.

STEP 4

Here's the beginning sentence that Amani wrote. Let's read his sentence out loud together.

- "A flying squirrel has many ways to protect itself."

STEP 5

Look for Amani's topic in the sentence on the screen. When you see his topic, point to it.

His topic is "A flying squirrel."

Look for Amani's main idea in the sentence on the screen. When you see his main idea, point to it.

His main idea is "Ways to protect itself."

STEP 6

Move your Beginnings & Ending sheet to the top of your stack of papers. Find number "1".

You'll see a sentence with a blank space where Amani had his topic. Fill in the blank with your topic, the name of your animal.

STEP 7

Amani has a good beginning sentence, but writers often write a few different beginning sentences and then choose the one they like best.

Amani decided to write another sentence that says more about why a flying squirrel needs to protect itself. He added "from hungry cats" to his sentence.

Let's read his new sentence out loud together.

- "A flying squirrel has many ways to protect itself from hungry cats."

STEP 8

Now, think about your animal.

Tell your partner what enemy your animal is protecting itself from. Talk about words you could use to describe your animal's enemy.

Take turns so both partners get to talk. If you need help, look at your Word Bank or your First Draft for ideas.

STEP 9

Find number "2" on your worksheet. Add your ideas to finish the sentence.

Write the name of your animal on the solid line.

Write the name of your animal's enemy on the dashed line.

If you like, add a describing word in front of your animal's enemy.

STEP 10

Amani wanted to write one more beginning sentence. Amani thought about all the things that a flying squirrel did to protect itself, and he realized that flying squirrels were really good at escaping from their enemies.

So, he wrote, "The flying squirrel is great at escaping from cats."

STEP 11

Amani thought of other ways animals protect themselves. He wrote three descriptions of ways that different animals protect themselves. Here's what he wrote:

- This animal is great at escaping its enemies.
- This animal fights back when its enemy tries to eat it.
- This animal is very hard for its enemy to bite.

Discuss: Which of these descriptions matches your animal the best?

STEP 12

Choose the description that fits your animal. Say your animal's name quietly and then read the description you chose.

That's a great beginning sentence. Write it down in number "3".

STEP 13

Now you have three sentences. Any of them would be a great beginning for your sign. Read each one silently.

Make a smiley face by your favorite, the one you want to use on your sign.

HOOK 4

Now, you have a great sentence for the beginning of your sign. It tells readers your topic and your main idea.

The sentences you wrote on your First Draft sheet are the middle of your sign They tell readers details about how your animal protects itself.

Now, you need a sentence to end your sign. The ending sentence lets the reader know that they've reached the end. One good way to write an ending is to remind readers of the main idea. But you don't want to just say the main idea again. To make a great ending, Amani wanted to remind readers of the main idea but also add something a little different.

So rather than thinking about the flying squirrel, he thought about the cat that wanted to catch the squirrel. So, he wrote, "A cat that tries to eat a flying squirrel for lunch often goes hungry."

Amani also thought about what the flying squirrel might say to the cat as it flew away. He thought the squirrel might say, "Bye bye, kitty." So, he added that too!

Now, you'll write your own ending sentence.

STEP 14

Think about how your animal's enemy might feel after your animal escapes.

Tell your partner how you think your animal's enemy might feel. Take turns so both partners get to talk.

If you need ideas, you can look at your Word Bank.

STEP 15

Here's what we thought:

- A snake that was kicked in the head by a kangaroo rat might end up with a big headache.

- A coyote that didn't catch an armadillo might feel very sad.

Maybe you came up with some other great ideas too.

Look at number "4" on your worksheet. Use your ideas to complete the sentence.

Put the name of your animal's enemy on the dashed line.

Put your animal's name on the solid line.

Put how the enemy feels in the box.

STEP 16

If you want and if you have time, add what your animal would say to its enemy at the end of your sentence. You can write it on the dotted line.

WRAP UP

You have finished a draft of the whole sign, beginning, middle, and ending. Great job!

Next time, you'll be putting all the parts together to make a complete sign. Before you go, make sure you put your V.I.P.s somewhere safe.

See you later.