Lesson 2: Be the Animal Rescue

UNIT: Amani's Animal Rescue

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, it's Walker. At Amani's Animal Rescue Center, the baby animals you saw last time are doing well. The baby armadillo is playing with his toys, the kangaroo rat is enjoying its feeding time, and the flying squirrel is taking some practice flights.

In the last lesson, you chose an animal to write about: the high-hopping kangaroo rat or the weird and roly-poly armadillo. You watched videos of your animal and started gathering ideas and information. You put your ideas on your Think Sheet.

Now your job is to write a sign that tells people about your animal and how it protects itself from its enemies.

In today's lesson, you'll get a new source of information. Tara, who works at the rescue center, draws pictures, and she loves to draw what the baby animals at the center will look like when they grow up.

When she draws, she notices details that she didn't see before. On her drawings, she writes notes about what she noticed and what she figured out. Here's Tara's picture of a flying squirrel.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Can you find anything in Tara's picture that might help Amani answer his question: "How do flying squirrels fly?"

HOOK 2

Tara noticed that the flying squirrel stretched out its front and back legs when it leaped off the tall tree. When the squirrel did that, the skin that connected its legs opened up like a wingsuit. So rather than falling, the squirrel glides through the air.

Tara's picture gave Amani information he needed. Her picture shows that the squirrel has claws that help it climb trees, and her picture shows that the squirrel has big eyes that let it see in the dark so it can come out at night.

To provide you with information that you need about your animal, we borrowed two pages from Tara's sketchbook, a drawing of an armadillo and a drawing of a kangaroo rat.

After looking at Tara's drawing of your animal and adding to your Think Sheet, you'll be ready to start writing.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies.

You'll need two worksheets that you used in the last lesson and two new worksheets.

When you're done with this step, click the arrow on the right.

STEP 2

Get your Think Sheet.

Today in our examples, you'll see students who pick the armadillo. Don't worry if you pick the kangaroo rat. The steps are exactly the same for both animals.

In the last lesson, you wrote about ways your animal protects itself. You'll be gathering more information, so it's helpful to remember what ideas you already have. Silently, read what you wrote on your Think Sheet.

STEP 3

Your teacher has put up two signs: Team Armadillo and Team Kangaroo Rat. When your teacher says go, stand up and go to the sign with your animal on it.

STEP 4

For the next few steps, you'll be working with a partner, someone who chose the same animal you did. When everyone has a partner, sit down and go to the next step.

STEP 5

Let's take a look at Tara's drawings together. We'll look at both drawings—the armadillo and the kangaroo rat. Listen as I read the notes on both drawings. Both animals are really interesting. Pay special attention to the notes about your animal.

I'll start with the armadillo:

- Its brown color helps it hide from predators.
- Its hard shell protects it against teeth and claws.
- It has a good sense of smell.

- A sticky tongue for catching insects.
- And long claws for digging a hole to hide in.
- And we can't forget that it has the ability to curl up to protect its belly.

STEP 6

Now let's look at Tara's drawing of the kangaroo rat. Listen as I read the notes out loud:

- Its long tail helps it turn while jumping.
- It has big eyes to help it see in the dark.
- And it also has big cheeks for storing extra seeds.
- Its front paws are great for digging.
- And its strong legs help it jump really far.
- Lastly, we can't forget about its big feet designed for strong kicks.

STEP 7

Look at Tara's drawing that you were given and silently read the words on it. Think about what the drawing and the words tell you about ways your animal protects itself.

In your own words, write at least two new ideas on your Think Sheet. Write more if you like.

STEP 8

Now you are going to compare your notes with your partners.

Take turns reading an idea from your Think Sheet.

If you both have the same idea, put a check mark next to it.

STEP 9

Find all the ideas on your Think Sheet that don't have a check mark. Those are the ideas that your partner doesn't have on their Think Sheet.

Your partner can add them to their Think Sheet if they like.

STEP 10

Remember your assignment—you are writing a sign that tells people about how your animal protects itself. Look at all the ideas on your Think Sheet.

Circle two or more ideas that tell you how your animal protects itself.

STEP 11

When authors start writing, they call the first version a draft—that means it isn't final yet.

Take a look at the first draft of Amani's sign about flying squirrels, then discuss: What do you notice about Amani's first draft? Do you think it looks perfect?

STEP 12

Here's what we noticed: Amani's first draft is messy—he crossed out the words or sentences he didn't like. In a first draft, don't worry about making mistakes. If you make a mistake, just cross it out.

STEP 13

Get your First Draft worksheet. Beside the word "Topic," write the name of your animal.

STEP 14

Find the idea on your Think Sheet that you think is the most interesting way your animal protects itself. Then, working by yourself, write a sentence about that idea next to number "1." Silently read the sentence over to yourself. If you can say more about this idea, write another sentence.

STEP 15

By the number "2" on your First Draft, write a sentence about another idea that you circled on the Think Sheet. We'll write for about five minutes. If you finish your second sentence, write more sentences about other things you circled.

Keep writing until time runs out. Use the back of the page if you need more space.

And remember, it's perfectly fine if your first draft looks messy. It's okay to cross things out and make changes as you write.

STEP 16

If there's time, read your favorite sentence to your partner. When you read it out loud, you may discover that you want to change some words.

You can go ahead and do that now.

STEP 17

The papers shown on the screen are V.I.P.s—very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them so you will have them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Nicely done! Today, you added more information about your animal to your Think Sheet, and you started your First Draft. Your sign is starting to take shape.

In the next lesson, you'll be adding the sentences that will make your sign unforgettable and fun to read.

See you later.