



Writing Fundamentals

Launching

Generating Ideas I: Sharing Our Fascinations

Rationale:

Writers use writing to share their passions and inform their readers.

Preparation:

- *A Good Day's Fishing* by James Prosek
- *Writers' Notebooks*

Teaching:

Inform

There are many different forms and intentions for writing. Often, writers are inspired by a topic they are passionate about, and they write in hopes of sharing that passion and informing their readers about it. This is definitely the case for James Prosek, author of *A Good Day's Fishing*.

Present

James wrote and illustrated this book. I mention this because the first part of the book contains very little text. Here, James's passion and expertise on the topic comes across through the details of his illustrations.

Reread the book, and stop at the first page to notice the details in the illustration of the tackle box. Stop again at the page illustrating the different kinds of hooks. Point out the differences and quantity of hooks displayed. Stop reading before the LURE AND FLY GLOSSARY. Reading this book, I felt like I was getting ready with James. He obviously loves fishing and has gone fishing a lot. I think his intention as a writer was to make his readers love it too.

Point out the glossary. In this glossary, James gives readers the basics to get started fishing themselves. Read the last sentence before definitions. Not only does James want readers to love fishing, he wants them to get out there and do it.

It says on the book's jacket, James is a leading expert on fly-fishing and a popular writer in that area. James is like many writers who find inspiration for writing on topics they are passionate about.

Engage

What do you love about the way James loves fishing? What do you do that you think other people should try? Talk with someone sitting near you about it. After you have shared ideas, make a list of your passions in your Writer's Notebook.

Reiterate

Writers write about things they are passionate about. Often, their intention is to share their passion and inform their readers about it. Select something from your list to write about today.

Conference Questions:

- Which of these ideas are you most interested in?
- Who would your audience be?
- What is the history of your passion?

Extension:

- "What's Your Thing?" interview: Build excitement around students' passions, and help them generate ideas by giving them time to talk to and interview each other.
- Have students bring in artifacts or pictures of their passions.

Appendix:

"What's Your Thing?"



What's Your Thing?

What do you love to do? _____

How did you discover this thing? _____

Who is your mentor? (A mentor is an expert you look to for advice and inspiration.) _____

Why do you think other people should try it? _____

What is your favorite thing about it? _____
