



Daybreak
— LESSON PLANS —
Family Holiday Tradition

General Information

Grade Levels: Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

Total Duration: 30-60 minutes (time will vary based on grade level)

Areas of Focus: Holidays, Listening & Speaking, Writing

Materials: blank white paper or lined paper (depending on grade level) for writing assignment, pencils, and colored pencils/crayons

Activity Description

1. Model asking and answering both question 1 and 2 using a sentence frame. Make sure students are clear that they are to choose a specific tradition (something they practice regularly) and not a general holiday. For example: decorating the Christmas tree versus Christmas.
2. Pair students up with a partner.
3. Ask students to brainstorm orally with their partner. Monitor students to ensure they are taking turns asking and answering the question in the specified format.
4. Switch partners and have students respond to the questions with a new partner.

Students who cannot come up with a holiday tradition can write about a general tradition their family practices such as pizza and movie night every weekend or birthday celebrations every year.

5. Have students return to their seats to dictate/write/type about their favorite family holiday tradition. **For Kinder students or struggling writers, you can use dictation. Otherwise, lower grades can write sentences while upper grades can write paragraphs (one for each reason).**

6. Encourage students to include sensory details in their writing.

Students in the upper grades can peer edit and include multiple drafts, going through the entire writing process.

Brainstorm Question 1:

What is your favorite family holiday tradition?

Response Sentence Frame:

My favorite family holiday tradition is _____.

Brainstorm Question 2:

What are 3 reasons why this is your favorite family holiday tradition?

Response Sentence Frame:

One reason I like this family holiday tradition is _____.

Another reason I enjoy it is _____.

Lastly, I like it because _____.



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7. If time allows and depending on the grade level taught, you may wish to have students complete an illustration to go with their writing. They may then use colored pencils/crayons to color in their illustration.

After the Activity...

Have students bring in something related to their favorite family tradition to share with the class. Encourage them to explain why this item is special to them. You may even wish to have them pass the item around.