

## **Responsive Classroom**

### **Morning Meeting**

#### **Weekly Skills**

Note: When it is used correctly, Morning Message can be the English Language Arts equivalent of Calendar Math. It provides a wonderful opportunity to introduce and review skills on an ongoing basis. The sample messages are suggestions only. Feel free to include any skills you are studying in your messages. These letters are representative of the most basic message with one or two skills included.

#### **Ideas for Teaching Skills During Morning Meeting**

##### **Greetings**

Alliteration – Each student takes the first letter of their first name and thinks of another descriptive word that starts with the same letter. Ex. Darling Darla, Creative Caleb, or Jazzy Jade. Then they will use these names when they greet each other.

##### **Activities**

Adventure Stories – Use story starters and each child contributes one sentence to the story. Teacher would start: “Once there was a three-headed dragon named Trevor who wanted to travel the world. First, he went to Hawaii and learned how to surf.” Then each child would contribute a sentence while the teacher records. The teacher also provides the ending line. Can be used in literacy stations for editing and publishing.

Suffixes – Cards are created with base words on some and suffixes on others. Distribute and students must match card to card to create new words. Several combinations should be possible.

Sequence – Use story sequence cards and place them in order and summarizing skills to explain cards after they are in order. This can be used in stations.

Who Am I – Teacher creates cards with the names of special people, places or things. These should relate to topics of study. Teacher writes the names on cards and tapes them to the back of a student. The student then goes to the center of the circle and turns so everyone can see what is written on the card. The child in the center then answers “yes” and “no” questions until they can guess who, where or what they are.

Double This, Double That – The original activity can be found in “**Energizers! 88 Quick Movement Activities That Refresh and Refocus.**” The song goes like this:

“Double, Double, this, this

Double, Double, that, that

Double this, double that,

Double, double, this, that”

The lyrics can be changed to include many skills from math to language, rhyming words to vocabulary. Ex:

Double double two two

Double double three three

Double double four four

Double double six, six

Double two Double Four

Double three, double six

Double double two four!

Double double three six

Double double snow snow

Double double nice nice

Double double man man

Double double twice twice

Double snow, double man

Double nice, double twice

Double double snowman

Double double nice twice

### Sharing

Composing Oral Sentences – Direct students who are sharing to compose their ideas into one main idea and two supporting details. The rest of the class may make a comment but not a question.

August Week Two

Skills – handshake, eye contact, making group rules, word structure, cause and effect, composing oral sentences, suffixes, sequence.

August Week Three

Skills – Review Group rules, kinds of sentences, text features, sequence, subjects and predicates.

August Week Four

Skills – Context clues, character, setting, plot, author’s purpose, commas, steps to creative writing.

**August Sample Letter**

	Date
Dear New Fourth Graders,	
Welcome to our Fourth Grade classroom! Today is _____.	
We will all have a chance to share this morning. Think about the most fun activity you had this summer. First, we will create our Morning Meeting <u>expectations</u> . Finally, we will have an activity exploring c_____ and e_____. Make _____ choices and have a _____ day.	
Love, Ms. Jones	
Fill in the chart below:	
<u>Cause</u>	<u>Effect</u>
Eat a healthy breakfast _____	Have energy to do work Keeps the cavities away
Take a daily vitamin _____	_____
Studying and doing homework _____	Builds muscle and endurance

September Week One

Skills – Suffixes, quotation marks, commas, incomplete sentences, alliteration.

September Week Two

Skills - Alliteration, text features, writing a biographical sketch

September Week Three

Skills – Prefixes, suffixes, common/proper nouns, cause and effect

September Week Four

Skills – Character, plot, setting, singular and plural nouns, dictionary/glossary

**September Sample Letter**

Dear Stupendous Students,		Date
<p>Today is _____ and _____ is the message leader. _____, _____, and _____ will share. Let’s think about the story/book we are currently reading. Be ready to discuss the characters, s_____ and p___ of our story. Here is a quote from our story/book, “_____.”</p> <p>Think about the meaning behind this quote and we will share ideas in the meeting. Make _____ choices and have a _____ day.</p>		
		Love, Ms. Jones
Fill in our table of common and proper nouns:		
<u>Common</u>		<u>Proper</u>
Principal		_____
Book		_____
_____		Poodle
Restaurant		_____
_____		Memphis

October Week One

Skills – Steps to creative writing, cause and effect, alliteration

October Week Two

Skills - Word structure, answer questions, compare/contrast

October Week Three

Skills – Words in context, fact and opinion, analogies, possessive nouns.

October Week Four

Skills – Dictionary/Glossary, transitional words, plural possessive nouns, metaphor, imagery, rhyme

**October Sample Letter**

Date
Dear (alliteration),
Today is _____ and _____ is the morning message leader. _____, _____, and _____ will share. (School's name) 's student are the smartest around. Let's create an analogy using the word "smart": Smart : intelligent :: bright : clever (leave one of these blank) You all are the bright sunshine is this classroom. Make _____ Choices and have a _____ day.
Love, Ms. Jones
Find a rhyming word to fill in the blanks:
Dog            1.                            2.                            3.
Love           1.                            2.                            3.
Play           1.                            2.                            3.
Teach         1.                            2.                            3.
Slip           1.                            2.                            3.
Run            1.                            2.



### December Week One

Skills – Bases and affixes, graphic sources, making predictions, verb tenses, compound words.

### December Week Two

Suffixes, generalizations, regular verbs, possessives, reading a schedule

### December Week Three

Skills – review all skills that need extra attention, poetry – imagery, metaphor.

### December Sample Letter

Date

Dear Outdoor Athletes,

Today is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is the morning message leader. We will do an All-Around share this morning. Start thinking about what your plans are for the break and be ready to share. (something about what you are studying in class). Make \_\_\_\_\_ Choices and have a \_\_\_\_\_ day.

Love,  
Ms. Jones

Read the poem and think about the lines that rhyme. Be ready to discuss your opinion of this poem.

**“The time has come”,  
The Walrus said,  
“To speak of many things.  
Of shoes and ships, and sealing wax,  
Of cabbages and kings.  
And when the sea is boiling hot,  
And whether pigs have wings!”**

January Week One

Skills – Context clues, synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, compare/contrast, pronouns, contractions, instructions in order.

January Week Two

Skills – Context clues, dictionary/glossary, compare/contrast, editing, revising, publishing.

January Week Three

Skills – Dictionary/glossary, characters, setting, characteristics of a play, simile, metaphor, verbs.

January Week Four

Skills – Word structure/Greek and Latin roots, graphic sources, editing, revising, publishing, irregular verbs.

**January Sample Letter**

		Date
Dear Running, Jumping, Climbing Students,		
Today is _____ and _____ will be the morning message leader.		
_____, _____, and _____ will share. What is the difference between a simile and a metaphor? Can you think of any similes and metaphors of your own? We will continue our (name of a project you are working on). Make _____ choices and have a _____ day.		
		Love, Ms. Jones
Complete the chart below on antonyms and synonyms:		
<u>Word</u>	<u>Antonym</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
Fast	_____	_____
Happy	_____	_____
Big	_____	_____
Cold	_____	_____
Hot	_____	_____



February Week One

Skills – Context clues, synonyms, antonyms, plot, text features/graphic sources, contractions.

February Week Two

Skills – Poetry/simile, usage errors, double negatives, troublesome words.

February Week Three

Skills – Context clues, homophones/homographs, author’s purpose, making predictions, adjectives and articles.

February Week Four

Skills – Word structure/Greek and Latin roots, compare/contrast, comparative and superlative adjectives.

**February Sample Letter**

Date	
Dear (insert two adjectives) Children,	
Today is _____ and _____ is the leader of the morning message.	
_____, _____, and _____ will share.	
What is the difference between a homophone and a homograph? Think about this and be ready to discuss it in morning meeting. Make _____ choices and have a _____ day.	
Love,	
Ms. Jones	
On the graphic organizer below compare and contrast pizza and tacos:	
<u>Compare</u>	<u>Contrast</u>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

March Week One

Skills - Context clues, sequence, story structure, main idea, adverbs, adjectives.

March Week Two

Skills – Word structure, words with Latin roots, main idea and details, comparative and superlative adverbs.

March Week Three

Skills – Related words, draw conclusions, context clues, revising, editing, publishing, usage errors.

**Sample March Letter**

Date
Dear (two adjectives) Students,
Today is _____ and _____ is the morning message leader. _____, _____, and _____ will share. What plans do you have for S_____ B_____?
Be ready to share your plans in the circle. (Include a S.S. or Science statement).
Make _____ decisions and have a _____ day!
Love, Ms. Jones
Include some details for these main ideas:
Pizza is the best food for a party.
1.
2.
3.
S
pring Break is a time for fun.
1.
2.
3.

April Week One

Skills – Poetry/word choice, prewriting, drafting, using a website

April Week Two

Skills – Word structure, cause and effect, fact and opinion, sentence combining, conjunctions.

April Week Three

Skills – Dictionary/glossary, fact and opinion, graphic sources, pre-writing, drafting, capitalization.

April Week Four

Skills – Context clues, character, theme, author’s purpose, friendly letter, capitalization.

**April Sample Letter**

Date	
dear happy snappy friends,	
today is _____ and _____ is the leader of the morning message.	
_____, _____, and _____ will share. think of a cause and effect scenario	
and be ready to discuss them in our circle. we are working on combining sentences this week.	
We will also be working with the dictionary.	
make _____ choices and have a _____ day.	
Love, Ms. Jones	
Write three facts and three opinions about plants and animals:	
<u>Facts</u>	<u>Opinions</u>
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

May Week One

Skills – Context clues, generalization, ask questions, graphic sources, quotations, quotation marks.

May Week Two

Skills – Context clues, homonyms, graphic sources, fact and opinion, titles.

May Week Three

Skills – Unit wrap up, tone, theme, allusion

**May Sample Letter**

Date

Dear Future Fifth Graders,

Today is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ is the leader for the morning message. We will all take part in a Round-Robin Share. We will be discussing ideas about our summer vacation so think of things you can share. We are at the end of our school year and it has been a very busy year. Make \_\_\_\_\_ choices and have a \_\_\_\_\_ day.

Love,

Ms. Jones

Create a web of your favorite activities this year:

