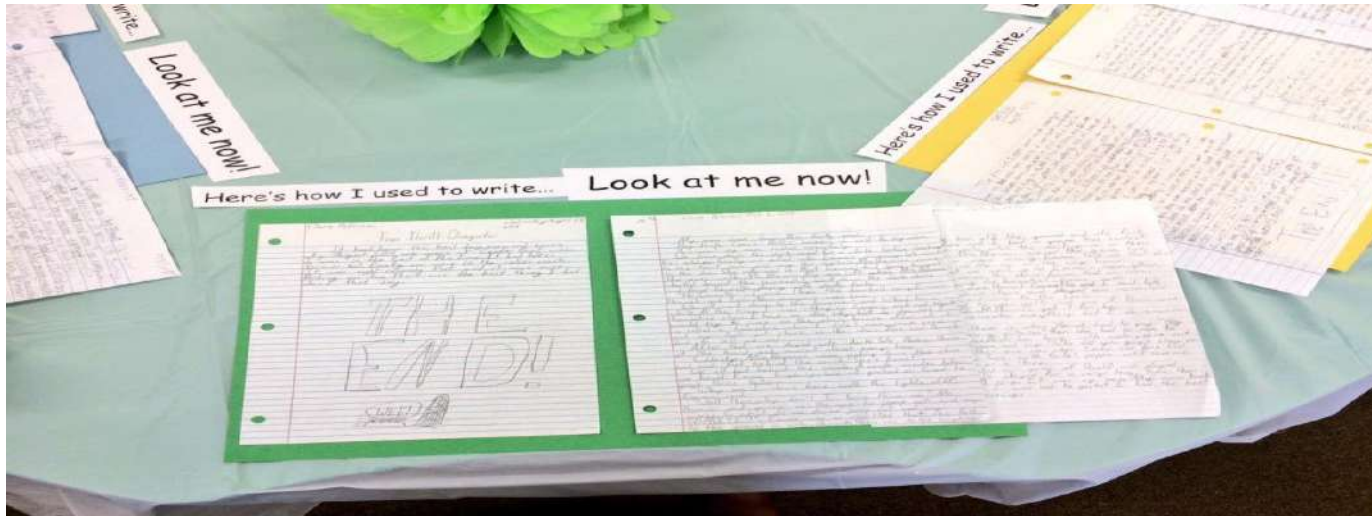


# Writer's Workshop

**Understanding Lucy Calkins'  
Writer's Workshop Model**

# Focus on: The Writing Workshop Model

This method of instruction focuses on the goal of fostering lifelong writers. It is based upon four principles: students will write about their own lives, they will use a consistent writing process, they will work in authentic ways, and they will develop independence as writers.



# Focus on: The Writing Workshop Model (continued)

Writing Workshop is designed for use in all [grade levels](#). Each grade level has specific units of study tailored to meet developmental and curricular needs. Students have a large amount of choice in their topic and style of writing. The teacher acts as a mentor author, modeling writing techniques and conferring with students as they move through the writing process.

Direct writing instruction takes place in the form of a mini-lesson at the beginning of each workshop and is followed by a minimum of 45 minutes of active writing time. Each workshop ends with a sharing of student work.

# Focus on: The Writing Workshop Model (continued)

The Teacher's College Writing Workshop model allows students to have the “last” word by allowing students to take something commonplace in their life and give it meaning! Examples:

Using foundations of curriculum, students see that writing is a craft. They will enjoy learning how to become better writers through hard work and practice.

Writing will happen every day, and students will write in a variety of ways to touch on all genres.

Students are not be assigned specific topics, but have the flexibility to write about what matters to them.

# Interesting! So, what does a “Writer’s Workshop” model look like in the classroom?

Writer’s Workshop begins with a mini-lesson that teaches a new strategy. The teacher may begin with a sample of their own writing, specific to the unit or genre being studied.

Helpful charts should be on display in the classroom. They should reinforce strategies such as helping with dialogue, structure, elaboration, or conventions.

Practicing with a partner by sharing their stories with each other. Storytelling is a strategy that allows students to develop their ideas.

Rehearsals! Students nurture and grow as writers by learning how to make a

# Interesting! So, what does a “Writer’s Workshop” model look like in the classroom? (continued)

Students share their writing with a partner. They add pictures, dialogue and reflect on inner thinking .

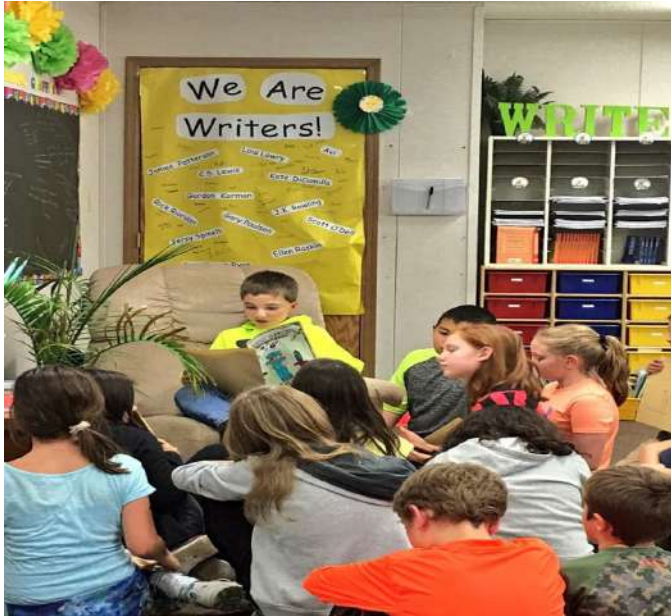
Drafting – students are taught to ask themselves, “*What am I trying to say?*  
*What is my story really about?*”

Revisions – teachers never mark up papers, rather dialogue and reflection occur during one on one conferencing!

Publishing Time! Writing celebrations occur to share the writing with classmates, parents and school community.

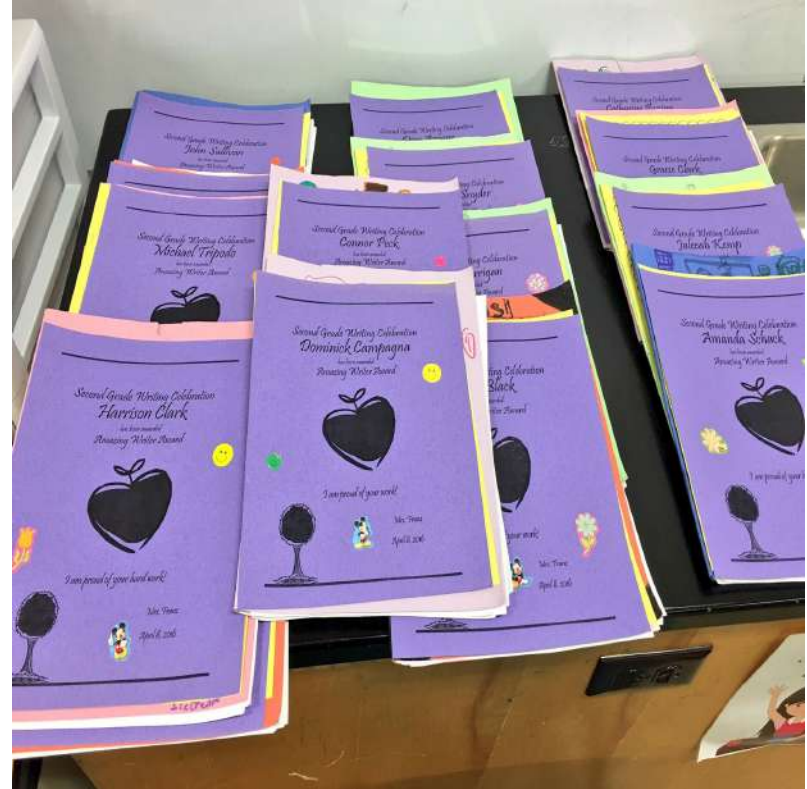
# Writing Celebrations...We are Writers!

Invite classmates, school personnel and families to share in a Writing Celebration at the end of each writer's unit. We are writers!





# End of Unit Writing Celebrations!





# Units of Study: What will students cover?

Establishing Workshop Routines – behavior and academic expectations!

Working on Craftsmanship and Revision

Informational Pieces

Opinion Writing

Poetry

Informational Pieces

Realistic Fiction

Narratives

# Contact Information

Mrs. Cassie Smolen

Buckeye Elementary School, Principal

[cassandre.smolen@riversideschools.net](mailto:cassandre.smolen@riversideschools.net)