

From Lisa - Bronx, NY

I just wanted you to know that on Thursday a friend's nine-year old son was having a lot of difficulty with his homework, which was to write a response to a book he had read. There was a lot of pencil sharpening going on. When I asked to see his work, he had produced one short paragraph, with incomplete sentences and thoughts, spelling errors and obvious signs of frustration (dark print, smudges, wrinkles, etc). Verbally, he recalled many details from the story but was unable to put them in a logical order or make connections (text to self, text to text, text to world).

I pulled out a piece of paper and a pencil and gave him a "short course" on Braidy; drawing the icons and explaining their meaning. I then asked him to provide the information for each story element verbally. He then wrote a draft paper that was three times longer than his original and made much more sense. The print was legible. I asked him some additional questions to get him to add more detail to his writing, and explained about using cohesive ties to link ideas together.

Because I had to leave, I was unable to see the finished product.

Today, I got a follow-up to the story. It seemed that Alyn was so enthusiastic about the writing piece, he insisted on getting up early on Friday before school and revising it. His mother couldn't believe what he had produced (he generally does poorly in writing and has to be forced to read and write anything). She overheard him excitedly telling his friend about Braidy and the meanings of the icons.

I received flowers this afternoon from Alyn and his mom. His mom is begging me to continue to work with him.

I just love Braidy. I think we should throw him a party!

LOL

Lisa

P.S. Week before last I introduced a story to a group in preparation for teaching them about perspectives...When I picked up the children the next week, one of the students (2nd grade) looked at me and said, "You know, I was thinking that there was more than one plan in this story." I could have screamed.