

Workshop, Grades K-1

English Learner

Workshop affords English learners a wealth of opportunities for gaining proficiency in English. It also encourages them to share their backgrounds with their peers. Since you will be working with students individually and in small groups regardless of their reading ability, those students who need special help with language should not feel self-conscious. In addition, working in small groups made up of students with the same interests rather than the same abilities provides them with the opportunity to learn about language from their peers during the course of Workshop activities. This gives them a safe and secure setting in which to learn.

Some suggestions for meeting the needs of students with diverse backgrounds include:

- Preread a selection with English learners to help them identify words and ideas they wish to talk about. This will prepare them for collaborative conversations with the group.
- Determine the students' understanding of the meaning of selections by asking questions, checking for comprehension, and speaking with English learners as much as possible.
- Draw English learners into small-group discussions to give them a sense that their ideas are valid and worth attention. Encourage students to express their ideas and help each other with suggestions of where they might improve their work.
- Pair English learners with native English speakers; by sharing their unique experiences and backgrounds, English learners can teach the other students as well as learn from them.
- Have English learners draw or dictate to you or another student a description of an idea or thought they may have during Workshop.

Activities are provided throughout the ***Open Court Reading Teacher's Editions*** and the ***SRA Imagine It! Teacher's Editions*** that can help with the English learners in your class. Many of these activities are designed for use during Workshop. In ***Open Court Reading*** ©2002/2005, additional activities found in the ***English-Language Development Guide*** as well as the accompanying ***English-Language Development Workbook*** may work well during Workshop. In ***SRA Imagine It!*** additional activities can be found in the ***English Learner Support Activities***. Lesson-by-lesson support for English learners can be found in the ***English Learner Support Guides***.