

# Daily 5

The Daily 5 consists of five language arts activities. Students may choose to read independently, read with a partner, listen to reading, write, or work with words.

**Read to Self:** We started by talking about choosing books that are a good fit for us. A good fit book is a book that matches how well we can read and also matches our interests. Picking out a book is like picking out clothes. They have to fit, but you also want to have clothes and books that you like!

**Read to Someone:** When we read with a partner, we practice reading with expression. It is our job to add feeling so our partner doesn't get bored. Our partner's job is to help if we get stuck on a word and to check for understanding at the end of each page or section. When everyone has a job, both partners stay focused on what is being read.

**Listening to Reading:** I read out loud to the class each day, and the students also listen to books on online or on CD. When students listen to others read, they hear a model for how good reading should sound. Voices change to show feeling, to set the mood, or to distinguish between a question and a statement. Students are exposed to higher-level vocabulary words that they may not otherwise see, especially if the books they listen to are harder than those they can read independently. Even older students can benefit from being read to from time to time, so break out a new book or an old favorite and have a family reading session this weekend!

**Writing:** We spent some time brainstorming writing ideas. First, we made a list of types of writing. Students suggested songs, lists, comics, fiction stories, poems, informational books, letters, etc. Then we came up with topics we could write about, such as animals, vacations, friends, and holidays. During Daily 5, students are encouraged to write for fun. We do not edit or revise our writing, but I do monitor the students' work and I encourage them to use the writing skills they learned during the school year.

**Word Work:** Working with words helps build vocabulary, improves spelling, increases reading comprehension, and makes writing more interesting. In class, we work on words in a variety of ways. Word Ladders and Scrambled Word Building ask students to change and manipulate words to create new words. We also played the game What's Gnu? The more we are exposed to words, the better we will be at reading and writing!