

Phillie Phanatic Comes to Visit

Winning Teacher: Rachel Rubel

School: Ithan Elementary School – Bryn Mawr, PA.

Each year, my first graders have a "ball" writing about what a day at school would be like if the Phillie Phanatic came to Ithan Elementary School.

Grade Level: 1st, but can be geared toward any grade for creative writing assignments.

Time needed: about 2 days.

Objective: The students will write about a day at school with the Phillie Phanatic. The children will write a sequential story. The children will use transition words like first, then, next, last.

Materials: Photos of the Phillie Phanatic from The Philadelphia Inquirer or The Daily News, picture of Phillie Phanatic from MLB.com, Template for story, blank paper (for older students), crayons, markers, colored pencils.**Subject:** Creative Writing

Procedure:

1. At the beginning of baseball season, children are encouraged to keep an eye out for any "Phillies" news and especially pictures of their wild and crazy mascot, the Phillie Phanatic in The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Daily News. The teacher can also share these websites with the class to look for photos for the classroom collage.
2. Children cut out pictures of the Phanatic and help build a collage of the Phanatic in the classroom.
3. A few weeks into the season, ask the children to imagine what it would be like if the Phanatic came to Ithan.
4. Children share their ideas as a whole group.
5. The teacher models how we could take those ideas and write a story, in sequence, that would tell about our day with the Phanatic.
6. Children then create their own story, in their best spelling (we call it Kid Writing).
7. After their stories are edited, and revised, the children publish their story in their very best handwriting, color a picture of the Phanatic from www.phillies.com, and post the story and illustration on bright red construction paper.
8. We hang the stories and pictures outside the classroom for everyone to see, along with our collage of photos from The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Daily Times.
9. Visitors will enjoy the bright illustrations along with the hysterical stories.

**These stories are always a favorite of passerbys, and the children really do have a great time with it. And, funny enough, the teacher and principal typically end up being the focus of the Phanatic's antics during his imaginary visit.

I hope you've enjoyed hearing about this lesson as much as the children enjoy participating in it. Now, the only thing they are waiting for is for the Phanatic to "actually" come to school one day!

