

Creating an "I Love to Write" Environment **(A sample lesson from this seminar)**

- **Materials:**
 - Children's book: *Dear Willie Rudd*, by Libba Moore Gray
 - Paper and writing materials

- **Objectives:**
 - To share the beauty and depth of children's books
 - To use the book as a "spin off" for writing
 - To encourage letter writing

- **Procedures:**
 1. Read the book with passion and conviction. (Tip: ALWAYS read a book previous to reading it aloud to your students.)
 2. Discuss the relationship between Miss Elizabeth and Willie Rudd. Include the time frame of the story and talk about how this world is the same and how it is different than when the story took place.
 3. What made Willie Rudd so special to Miss Elizabeth?
 4. Who is or was special in your lives?
 5. After much discussion, have students reflect on a person that is very special to them and take time to think what they would like to write and tell that person. Give the students TIME to reflect on that person.
 6. The following day, re-read the story, and create a quiet, reflective time for the students to write to the person they have spent time thinking about
 7. You could teach a lesson on different formats of friendly letters and then have students choose the format they would like to use for their letter to this special person
 8. Actually send the letters. If the person is not alive, discuss ways they could "send" the letter. (Maybe send it to a person who was related or a great friend.) Students need to have a REAL audience for their writing.