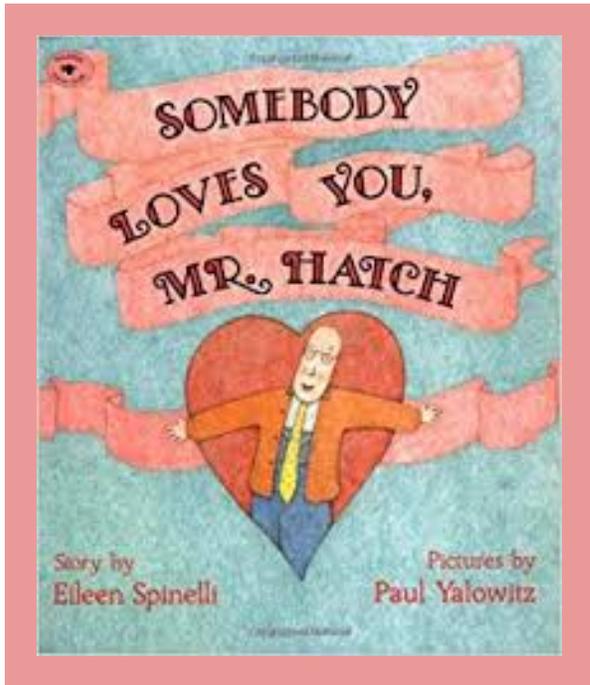


A favorite of many, this book holds a special place in our hearts. This month, use it to bring joy all over your school while practicing one of EW's staple skills- Detail Generating Questions.



Mr. Hatch is a drab, predictable gentleman who leads a painfully ordered and uninteresting life.

One Valentine's Day, a giant candy-filled heart is delivered to Mr. Hatch with a note that reads, "Somebody loves you."

Materials:

- Read Aloud- Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Ellen Spinelli

<https://www.storylineonline.net/books/somebody-loves-you-mr-hatch/>

- Detail Generating Questions Template
- Writing paper or paper cut-outs
- Optional: Crayons, markers, or colored pencils



Objective

Students learn to elaborate through the two basic detail-generating questions:

What does it look like? Why is it important?, while also showing their appreciation to the important people in their lives with a kind note or card.

The Lesson:

First: Compile a list of people your students come in contact with at school each day. (teachers, school nurse, principal, cafeteria staff, bus driver, custodian, liaison officer, etc.). Students will choose one person for whom they would like to write a note of thanks.

Next: Review the student reference page Detail-Generating Questions that are provided for students and explain that this lesson will focus on the first two questions: What does it look like? Why is it important? Emphasize how using these questions can help them “show” rather than “tell” in their writing.

Then: Choose one person from your school to complete a modeled sample with your students. Use the detail-generating questions to help gather information about the person you are writing about. Often, the “What does it look like?” are the thoughts, feelings, actions, or behaviors that the person exhibits, and the “Why is it important” is what you learn or receive from that person. Complete the chart with your students. Here is an example of details for a bus driver:

ⓓ ⓖ ⓐ

LOOK	IMPORTANT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smiling faceFriendly voiceGives good morning greetingsAsks how my day was	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gets me to school on timeKeeps me safeCares about me 

Depending on the age of your students and the amount of practice they have with generating elaborative details, you could do the brainstorming and charts together as a class. Students can then reference this chart for their own writing. Refer to section three in your Empowering Writers Grade Level Informational/Expository Guide for additional teacher background information or student activities on Detail Generating Questions.



Finally, once you have completed the chart, model how to put that information together using a sentence starter and some specific details from the chart.

Ex: *You always have a smiling face and a kind greeting for me each day. Not only do you make sure I get to school on time, but you also make sure that I am safe when I travel with you. I am lucky to have you as my bus driver.*



Finish the sample by adding a complimentary closing phrase or sentence to the end:

I hope that on this special day, you know how much I appreciate you.

Optional: Begin this lesson by writing to people at school, then allow students to choose someone in their personal life. (mom, dad, coach, friend, etc.) Spread a little kindness in as many places as you can!

Copy the heart-lined final copy PDF that is included onto color copy paper and cut out, or print it on white copy paper and allow your students to decorate it for the person they are giving it to.



Sentence Starters:

- You are important because...
- I am lucky to have a...
- I notice when...
- Without you, I'd never be able to...
- It's nice when...
- You put a smile on my face when ...
- You help me ...
- I am blessed because...
- Your _____ shows me that...
- I appreciate your...
- Having a (bus driver, nurse, etc.) like you...
- You make me feel special when ...
- I like when you...
- Thank you for being someone who...

Complimentary Closings:

- I hope on this special day...
- I want you to know how much I appreciate...
- I will always be thankful for...
- Our school is a better place with you!
- Thank you for always...