Observations of the students during learning

Throughout everything from mini lessons to writer’s workshop, the

students seem to be on task. They are ready to raise their hands and take part

of the lesson, no matter which type of lesson it is. The teacher has a great way

of keeping the students focused. She was able to keep their attention and answer

questions, while at the same time discouraging too much extra

talking.

Observations of students as they work within groups

When students are placed into groups, they worked together to

solve a common problem and they had great communication skills. They were

willing to help their classmates when they came to an unknown word or were

struggling to pronounce it. I noticed one student was timid to participate in

discussion, but when prompted, she spoke and showed an understanding of the

skill being taught. I also noticed that the students were on task during their

allotted time at each station. They were able to get a good amount of schoolwork

finished.

Observations about how technology is used in the classroom

Students go to their “Daily 5” stations in small groups. The

group that is reading uses I-pads to read the books on. It is interesting

because if the students aren’t familiar with a word, they can highlight it and a

dictionary app defines the word for them. Another interesting feature about the

e-books used in the classroom is a lightning bolt feature. If they click on the

lightning bolt, different comprehension games or questions are presented to the

student. This checks for understanding of the reading and makes sure important

vocabulary words are understood.

The classroom I am in does not have a smart board, only a regular white board. In place of a doc cam,

they have something called mimioview which is very similar to a doc cam. The teacher uses

this for mini lessons and other presentations for which it is needed.

Observations about classroom management (including rules and routines)

The teacher uses a method of counting down from 5 to make the

students quickly transition from group work back to their seats. She also uses a

“lights on/ lights off” method for getting their attention to signal the end of

group work, or when the students simply need to be

refocused.