

September 8, 2004 ^{date}

salutation
Dear Students,

indent | We will learn how to buzz today. It's a lot of fun. It is a time to talk about books.

indent | Today we will also write letters to our parents. We will display them for Open House.

indent | What ideas should we put in our letters to parents?

Sincerely, ^{closing}
Mrs. Fisher — signature

Here, the message chart becomes a real-life example for the class as they learn about letter-writing. By labeling the parts of a letter in the message during morning meeting, Rosalea reinforces vocabulary and what the children are learning about letter format.

Although she doesn't usually sign her messages, Rosalea includes a closing and signature because the class is learning about letter format.

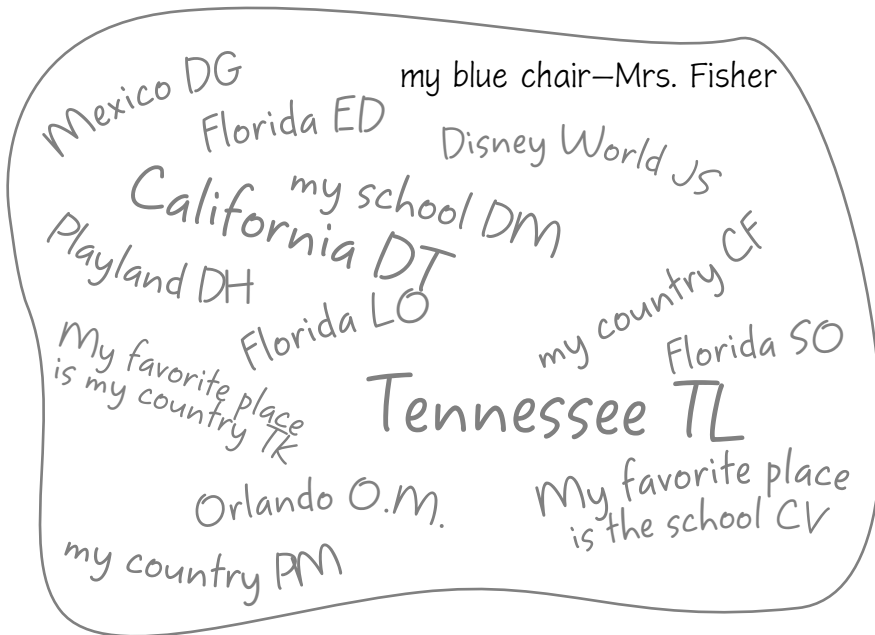
Using a signal such as a bubble at the bottom of the chart helps students know whether they should respond to a question in writing. (See Sept. 2 message for an example). Since there is no bubble on this chart, students know that a written response is not expected.

November 18, 2004

Good Morning, Readers!

We will read a book called The Place I Love today. It's about a boy who lives in the country.

What is your favorite place?



Mexico DG
Florida ED
my blue chair—Mrs. Fisher
Disney World JS
California DT
my school DM
Playland DH
Florida LO
my country CF
Florida SO
My favorite place is my country TK
Tennessee TL
Orlando O.M.
My favorite place is the school CV
my country PM

When the goal of the message is to get students excited about something new, Rosalea asks a question that they can respond to with just a few words. This cuts down on the amount of time each student needs for writing and maximizes the total number of responses.

Student responses create an opportunity to talk about the different meanings of “country.”

Find Word Wall words in today's message.

March 10, 2005

Dear Children,

Whether we go outside for recess depends on the weather. We'll wait and see. We'll watch during the day.

How are you feeling about yesterday's writing prompt?

I felt surprised because I didn't know that we were going to have it yesterday.

Excited because it's fun to write!

I am feeling glad because I finished. And because I used everything that I learned in writing.

I am feeling happy because I liked it when I said, "I don't know how to stop."

I felt happy because I finished.

Rosalea deliberately used Word Wall words in this message. During morning meeting, the class was challenged to see how many Word Wall words they could find.

The class found Word Wall words in their responses, too.