**Pen Pals Mini Lesson**

**Grade Level:** 2nd Grade

**Subject Area:** Language Arts 🡪 Writing

**Materials Needed:** postcard templates, pencils, clip boards, white board, dry erase markers, eraser, slips of paper with places written on them, Big Book on postcards/realistic fiction

**Standard:**

* ***2.W.3-*** Write narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, include details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, use temporal words to signal event order, and provide a sense of closure.
* ***2.*L.1**-Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

**Objective:**

* Students will recall elements of postcards and friendly letters.
* Students will mimic the introductory style of Realistic Fiction from their Big Book lesson.
* Students will write postcards to classmates.
* Students will respond to a pre-written postcard.

**Learning Activities:**

* **Day 1: Tuesday**
* *(Precede lesson with teaching of Big Book on postcards/realistic fiction)*
  + Review elements of a postcard/reasons for writing a postcard.
    - Address, greeting, body, closing, signature
  + Review purposes for writing a friendly letter.
    - Update, questions, thinking about someone
  + Combine elements together.
  + “We are going to mimic the story in the Big Book you all read yesterday. The girl in the story was writing postcards to her friend about the traveling she was doing but wasn’t actually telling her friend where she was. She only gave hints and her friend was challenged with guessing where she was.”
    - “Today I have brought slips of paper with different places on it and your job is to write to a partner, that I have picked for you, and give them hints of where you are. I picked places here in Watford City that you should all be familiar with.”
  + Write a postcard to someone in your group. (Pairs will be assigned)
    - Don’t let them see it yet.
  + Fake address will be provided.
  + If students finish early, have them color a picture on the back.
* **Day 2: Thursday**
* Quick review of what is needed to be in our postcards.
* Trade postcards with partners
* Respond to postcard.
  + Still need to incorporate same elements.
    - Where you think they are, a question about something they told you they were doing

**Assessment:**

* Formative: Whole group discussions
  + What they need to include, how it should be formatted
* Summative: Original postcard/response postcard incorporating necessary elements