Edit a Science Fiction Story for Spelling

1. Focus

Explain Editing for Spelling

Say: When we edit our writing, it is important to check for correct spelling. Sometimes we can easily find misspelled words if they are words we use often. However, some words can be more difficult to spell. When we come to words that are harder to spell, we need to use resources that will help us. For example, a dictionary is a great way to check for spelling if you think the word is almost correct. You can use what you already know to look up the correct word. You can also think about spelling patterns and rules you have learned in school. Another great resource is a classmate or even a mentor text. A mentor text is published writing that we can use to model our own writing after.

Model Editing for Spelling

Display the modeling text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to listen as you read each sentence aloud and look for spelling errors in your writing.

Modeling Text

1. Theo opened the door, and his smiling parents walked into the kitchen.
2. “Hey, kids!” chirped Mr. Mackey. “I’m sorry if we scared you before.”
3. “Everything’s totally fine now,” said Mrs. Mackey.

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

- Learn how to edit for spelling.
- Practice editing for spelling.
- Discuss how they can apply this skill to their own independent writing.

Preparation

Materials Needed

- Student dictionaries
- Chart paper and markers
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling and practice texts (with errors) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.
2. Rehearse

Practice Editing for Spelling

Display the practice text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

1. The two little dinosaur creatures emerged from behind the two adults, eyes aglow.
2. “They won’t give us any more trouble,” said one in a high-pitched fuzzy voice.
3. “Let’s get going, children,” the other said briskly. “The first invasion ship will be landing in two hours. It’s D-Day!”

Practice Text

Invite students to work with a partner to edit each sentence for spelling. Student pairs should write their edited sentences and be prepared to display them for the class and explain how they determined the correct spelling of misspelled words.

Share Spelling Edits

Invite pairs to share their edits with the class. For each example, let students discuss how they determined which words were misspelled and how they figured out the correct spelling.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that we need to edit our writing for any incorrect spellings. Before we get ready to publish our writing, we want to make sure our writing is the best it can be. We can use a dictionary, ask for help, or remember spelling patterns to correct our misspelled words.

Encourage students to edit their science fiction stories for spelling during independent writing time. During student conferences, reinforce students’ use of this and other strategies using the prompts on your conferring flip chart.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share examples of spelling corrections they were able to make to their science fiction stories.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Support beginning students in using a dictionary. On chart paper, write several words that they use in their everyday oral language. Show students how to use the guide at the top of each dictionary page to find a word. Work with students to locate each word and read its definition.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair ELs with fluent English speakers to complete the “Practice Editing for Spelling” partner activity. Assist students, as needed, in locating any words in the dictionary.