

Pet Peeves

Source(s): Heidi Mickelson
Hanshew

This year I just decided off the cuff to use humor and have the kids copy down "Ms. Mickelson's Pet Peeves" in an outline format off the board. I joked with them that if I was going to have consequences (like hanging them up by their fingernails) for things like sharpening their pencils while I was giving directions or pestering me about getting to change seats, I should at least warn them ahead of time what drives me crazy!!

It was a great icebreaker and per your suggestion, I had them later write about their own pet peeves. We also discussed what "pet peeve" means). It was an easy subject for them to write about and a great way for me to get to know something personal about each student right away. The only thing I think I might add to it next year is to read aloud The Teacher from the Black Lagoon. Then I would just provide the kids with my pet peeves typed up in outline form and have them fill in some of the blanks here and there.

An adaptation by Amy... (great alliteration, eh?)

Consider using Heidi's idea but play with the word "bug." Have kids brainstorm a list of things that bug them, and then challenge them to create a drawing depicting their worst nightmare of a bug. Of course, you might want to add some science to this making sure they have the correct parts to a bug: the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. Attach their lists to their final drawings and display.