Laundry Day

by Michael Salinger

Snaps, buttons, zippers, buckles, pennies, quarters, dimes, sometimes little rocks forgotten in my pockets, bounce and scrape and slide. The dryer's thumping rhythm plays backup to the humming washer's sudsy song.



Monday

- 1. **Reading fluency:** Read, re-reread, listen to the author read. Text highlights S sounds. When it's at the beginning of a word, the sound of S is pretty consistent, ss. But not always: *sure* and *sugar* are examples of when an S is pronounced as an SH. When an S is in the middle or end of a word, the pronunciation can change. Sometimes it's pronounced as a Z (*his* or *designer*). S often is combined with other consonants (T,H,C,K,L,M,N,P,W) to make unique sounds (*snap*, *scrape*). **Fun Fact:** There are more words in the English language that begin with the letter S than with any other letter.
- 2. Content comprehension: Ask: What is this poem about? It's about the sounds of doing laundry. It captures a moment, a snapshot in time. Ask: Can you hear the clinking and humming of the machines? The rhythm of this poem mimics the rhythm of a washing machine. Try reading again, accentuating the rhythm.

Tuesday

- **3. Vocabulary words:** *Sudsy, backup.* Discuss the use of the words in context and practice reading again. Use research tools if necessary, and come to a consensus about the word meanings.
 - *Sudsy* (adj.) soapy. Suds are soap bubbles. Ask students to turn and talk and trade sudsy stories. Everyone has one. Share.
 - *Backup* (n.) a support or help. If we back up (v.) a computer file, we save a copy. "Playing backup" (n.) is a phrase usually applied to music: the pianist played while the drummer *played backup*. Other than in music, how can one person back up another person? How could a dryer play backup to a washer?
- **4. Share Sheet:** Distribute Share Sheets. Then read them aloud and review the discussion ideas. **Discussion ideas:**
 - 1. Laundry sounds are familiar to us all. Do you have any laundry day stories? Have you ever accidentally put something in the washing machine you shouldn't have? It is possible that some students came from countries where laundry is done by hand or hung on a line instead of drying in a machine. Share stories!
 - 2. Rehearse SUDSY SONG 3 times and read aloud again. Try tumbling this poem around (like in a dryer), mix it up, or rap it if you want.

Wednesday

- **5. Social-emotional learning lesson:** Journal entry, 4-5 minutes. Students may choose from below.
 - What other chores are part of the rhythm of your life? Explain.
 - Besides laundry, what else is a familiar sound to you? Describe.
 - After writing, ask students to read their writing aloud. Some options:
 - everyone reads aloud at the same time (a seat symphony)
 - read one line of their writing aloud
 - read what they have written to a partner

Thursday

- **6.** Literary terms and writing conventions: Laundry Day uses sensory terms to describe the washer and dryer. While writers don't usually use all five senses, they often call on more than one of their senses when building a detailed description.
- 7. Quick Write: Review the mentor text. Co-construct a short descriptive text that contains sensory terms. Start with a list of sensory observations and then write using 3 or 4. See below: 5 are listed, but only 4 were used in the mentor text.
 - Sounds like Scraping forks, tapping feet
 - Smells like apples, butter, cinnamon
 - Feels like warm pie and cool ice cream
 - Tastes like sweet
 - Looks like the shape of the moon

Ask students to follow the instructions on the slide:

- Working with a partner or on your own, describe something or a situation using **sensory terms**.
- Reminder: Descriptive language engages the reader's senses: taste, touch, sight, smell, and sound.
 - It is not necessary to use ALL the senses, but try for at least 3 or 4.
 - Stay away from opinion words and stick to the facts.

Friday

- **8.** Audio Challenge: Ask students to choose from the options on the slide.
 - Record yourself reading *Laundry Day* alone or with a partner. Engage your audience by making those pie descriptions sound really yummy.
 - Record yourself reading your journal entry.
 - Record your quick write alone or with a partner.
 - Rehearse and share!

Sample:

Version 1:

I scrape my fork against my plate, and my father taps his foot. The aroma of cooking apples, melted butter, and cinnamon fills the house. Nothing tastes sweeter than grandma's warm apple pie with a side of cool vanilla ice cream. We all wait patiently. You can't rush pie.