**Kindergarten – Unit 5**

**Informative/Explanatory Writing with**

**Shared Research**

***Living Things in an Aquarium***

**TEACHER INFORMATION**

**Ideas to Share with Students:**

Students have been learning how to set up an aquarium in our Science unit. Students learned about both living and nonliving things that make up an ecosystem. Students added freshwater plants and freshwater tropical fish and pond snails to the aquarium and learned that living things need food, water, oxygen and a habitat. During this entire unit, students have been making observations.

Today you will write an informative report that tells two or more things you observed about what living things need in an aquarium habitat. Remember that when authors write informative or explanatory pieces they aim to teach readers about a topic. You, too, have been learning to write in such a way that you can teach others about what living things need in an aquarium habitat. It is important to ask, “What is the best way to organize my writing from beginning to end to help my readers learn about my topic?”

**Shared Research:**

**Shared Research:** Students will use information from our shared research to help them write their report.

**Overview of the Writing Task:**

Write two or more things you observed about the needs of living things in an aquarium habitat. Be sure to:

* Name each observation (topic) you are writing about.
* Supply some information about your observations (topic).
* Draw a picture to show what you are writing about.

**Graphic Organizers:**

Teachers and/or students may select the graphic organizer of their choice for planning this task. Several examples of graphic organizer planners for opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative story writing have been uploaded into Rubicon.

**Student Writing Paper:**

Teachers may select paper formatted to encourage students to name the topic they are writing about, to supply some information about the topic, and to draw a picture about the topic. Sample report paper has been provided.

**Example of a Shared Research Planner:**

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| **Topic: Living Things in an Aquarium** |
| **Needs** | **Information:** |
| **Food** |  |
| **Water** |  |
| **Oxygen** |  |
| **Habitat** |  |