Fill in the Blanks

Bloom's Taxonomy: *Application, Analysis*

ELA Anchor Standards:
- *Conventions of Standard English*
- *Knowledge of Language*

This activity is a student favorite. You, however, can rest assured that, while students are being creative and engaged, they are *reviewing the essentials of effective written composition*. From punctuation to capitalization, commas to periods to semi-colons—the sky's the limit.

On the surface, it seems that an activity such as "Fill in the Blanks" merely asks students to think of words that begin with the given letter so that a complete thought is expressed. While this is certainly true, it is also the case that, in order to complete the activity accurately, students must pay particular attention to whichever sentence elements you choose to include. (Note: If desired, you may simply choose to hand out the activity as provided in this book. On the other hand, you might decide to create your own version of this simple activity, using the included one as a model.)

Following are ways that to modify this strategy:

- Rather than using a worksheet, have students take turns drawing tiles from a Scrabble game or use premade flashcards. Students could use these as the beginning letters of the words that will create a sentence.
- Have students draw a simple multi-paneled comic strip. When complete, they compose fill-in-the-blank comic book style dialogue bubbles. Another student attempts to complete the dialogue based on the visual cues they see.
- Create your own "Fill in the Blank" activity based on key sentences taken directly from a textbook or novel. Encourage students to use their resources as they search for the key missing words.
- After completing any style of a "Fill in the Blank" activity, have students classify the sentences (interrogatory, declarative, etc.).
- Have students individually create their own "Fill in the Blank" sentence worksheets in which they include key vocabulary from the current unit of study. When complete, students can switch with others in the room and complete them silently.

Work through the model provided (or one that you make on your own), and provide pencils.

Fill In the Blanks

Complete the blanks below with words that would be appropriate, considering carefully the punctuation marks of the sentence and the capitalization already provided. Make sure that the sentence, when completed, is a complete thought, not a fragment. Silliness is okay, but the sentence does have to make sense. (In other words, you cannot simply have a collection of bizarre words with a period at the end).

Example: W _____ w_____ t _____ g _____ h _____ n _____ .

"We want to go home now." or "Wilma will throw greasy hotdogs now."

1. H____ l____ t____ e____ s____ s____ .

2. P____ t____ t____ a____ .

3. D____ y____ c____ J____ ?

4. W____ o____ ! Y____ m____ g____ b____ .

5. W____ t____ i____ i____ A____ ?

6. T____ m____ d____ i____ b____ i____ m____ n____ .

7. C____ w____ d____ y____ n____ g____ .

8. D_____ t _____ y_____ a_____ f_____ .

9. F_____ f_____ l_____ o____ h_____ .

10. M _____ c _____ a _____ o _____ t _____ m _____ .