**HOW DO YOU BEGIN THE YEAR?**

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**Lesson Objective**: The students will be able to organize their thoughts for writing a paragraph

**4 - 5 Sentence Description of Your Strategy/Idea/Activity**:

This is a book I read the first day or two of school.  My purpose in reading the book is to show students how to organize their thoughts for writing a paragraph.  The main character, Wallace, is a mouse who lives by the lists he writes and posts around his apartment.  He keeps to his list every day until one day a new neighbor moves in.  The neighbor is a free flier who enjoys spontaneous events.  One day the neighbor gets into a bit of trouble on a rainy day at an airport and Wallace must detour from his list and help his neighbor.  In the end, Wallace still likes lists, but becomes a bit flexible.  The story is great for paragraph writing because students create a bulleted list of the details they want to use in their paragraph.  I then have students number their bullets in the order they want to use them in their paragraph.  Then students begin by writing a main idea sentence.  Then students write a detail sentence for each bullet.  As the bullet is used, students cross it off.  It works great in keeping students organized and not throw in unnecessary and non-relevant details.  I have my students use the list/bullet method all year long!

**Books/Resources/Materials Used:**

Wallace’s List by Barbara Bottner

**Time Required:** 30 – 45 minutes

**In case teachers have questions regarding your submission, do we have permission to post your email on our website and Facebook page along with your submission?**  YES