Title: Weatherisms

Subject: Language Arts

Skills: creative writing

Grade Level: 2-5

Length of Lesson: 30 minutes

Overview: weather terms are used creatively in writing all the time. Brainstorm a list of weather-related sayings with your students and then write their figurative meaning. Draw a picture of both the literal interpretation and the figurative one.

Background Information: Some possible weather terms used to describe non-weather situations are: stormy relationship, head in the clouds, hot temper, cool, sunny disposition, thundering footsteps, hot under the collar, cold shoulder

Materials:
Paper or pre-made flip book for each student
Crayons
Pencils

Teaching the Lesson:

1. Ask students to describe the weather outside. List their descriptions on the board (for example, sunny, cloudy, rainy, windy).
2. Ask students to close their eyes and think of using that word or words to describe a person. The word you use for this activity will vary, of course, depending on the particular weather you have that day, and the words that the students suggest to you. If it is sunny, ask them what kind of person you would describe as sunny.
3. Give the students a different weather term, and repeat the activity. Ask them what kind of person they would think of that is described like a tornado?
4. Now brainstorm with the class a list of common expressions like the ones listed in the Background Information section.
5. Have them discuss in small groups what they think each one means, then share with the entire class.
6. Create a flip book by folding 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inch paper in half vertically. Turn the paper sideways, so that the crease is at the top, and lay it flat on the desk. Cut three equally spaced slits in the top half of the folded paper, stopping when you reach the crease. Students will now have a flip book with four flaps that can be opened. Flip books should be made ahead of time for younger students.
7. Have the students choose four "weatherisms" and write one on the front of each flap.

8. Open the flaps and instruct students to illustrate first the literal meaning (a picture of someone with a cold shoulder) on the back of the flap, and then the figurative meaning on the bottom of the flip book (one person ignoring another). Once finished, students should be able to read the "weatherism", open the flap and see both the literal interpretation of the saying and the figurative interpretation of the saying for each of four sayings.
9. Depending on age and ability of the students, they can then write a sentence, paragraph or story using one or more of the "weatherisms".

Evaluation: Students can be evaluated using the flip books and writing assignments.