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New students face challenges that can be scary and difficult. If they moved from out of town, new students may not know anyone. If they left a best friend behind or moved away from their grandparents, they may feel sad. Even students who switched schools within the same town may feel sad or nervous about meeting new people and learning about a new school. At least one thing about switching schools is stressful or difficult, most new students think.

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To help new students feel comfortable and welcome, kids in the classroom can do a lot. Smile and introduce yourself, the first and most important thing to do. Sometimes students who have never switched schools do not realize how much this means to someone who doesn't know anyone. Second, at least two questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer should be asked. For example, you could ask, "What's the coolest thing about your new home?" and "What do you like to do after school?" Third, because they may not know where to go, show new students where your class sits during lunch and offer to save them a seat with you. Fourth, talk to new students about what they like to play during recess and invite them to play with you. A big difference will be made in helping new students feel welcome by a kind student who follows these steps.

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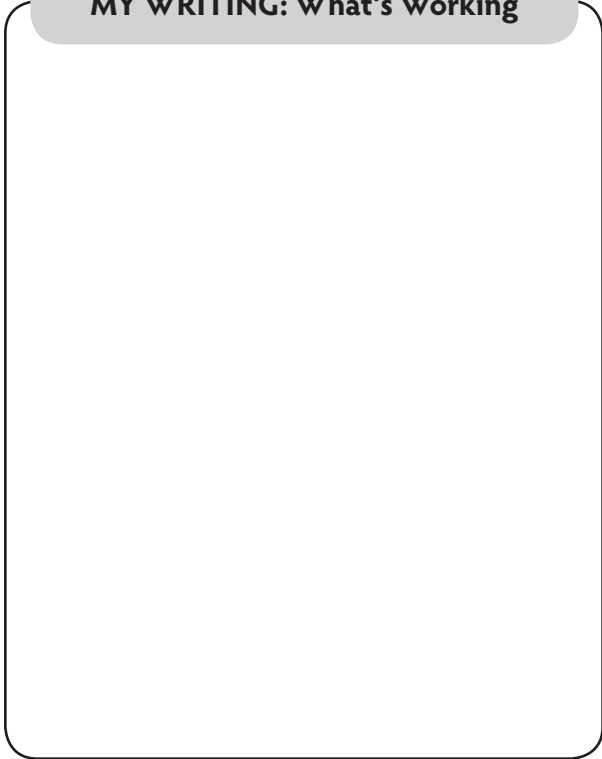
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CENTRAL QUESTION

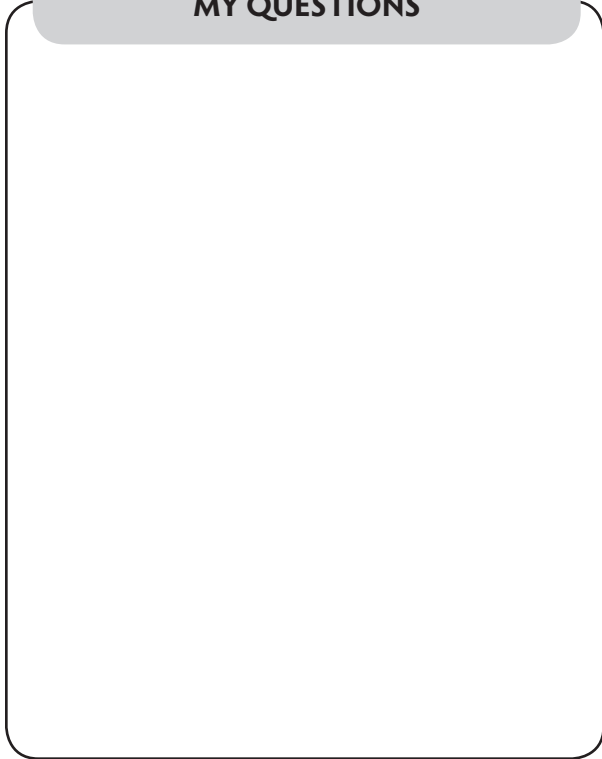
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MY QUESTIONS

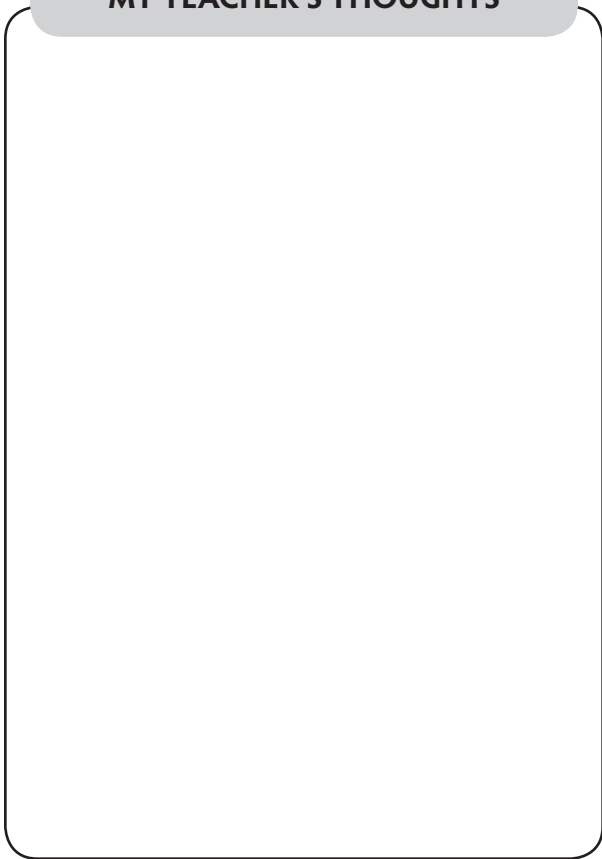


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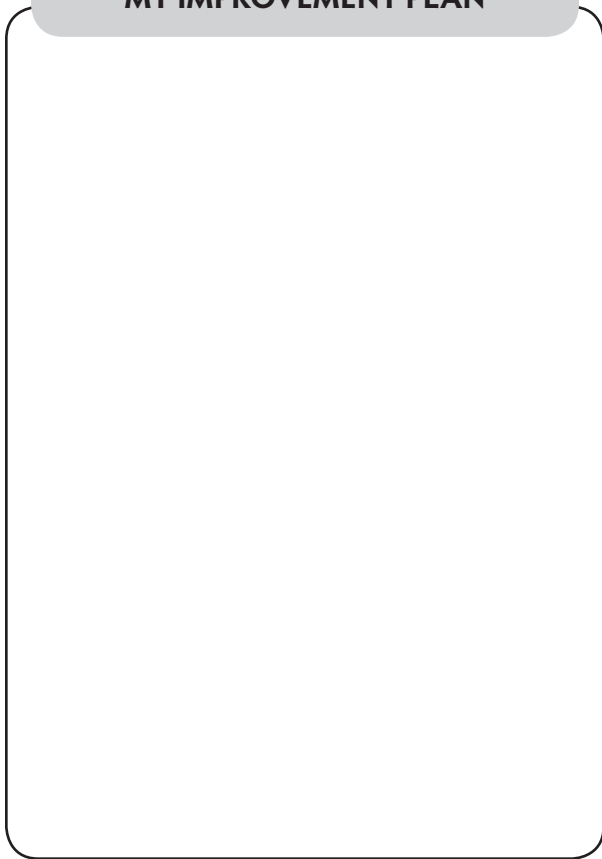
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