Do You Know Your Students?

Don Graves, an educator who helped reshape the teaching of literacy

Week 6 is a great time to try it yourself!

Create a three-columned chart on a piece of paper or on a simple table/spreadsheet on the computer.

In the left column, write your students’ names in the order in which you remember them. (Just this alone is interesting. Who do you remember first? Who do you struggle to remember?)

In the middle column, write down one positive thing about each student that doesn’t have anything to do with school work. (Jenny likes horses. Matt skateboards. Maria lives with her grandmother.)

In the third column, put a checkmark if you have talked with each student about this piece of knowledge. This helps us recognize how well we know our students, and—perhaps more importantly—how well they know we know them!

For students you struggled to remember, or for ones you didn’t know as much about, make a commitment to connect with them in the next few days.