

Mini-**8**
Lesson

Sharpen the Image With Specific Nouns

PURPOSE

to improve writing by changing general nouns to specific nouns

Before Examples

- 1 Gloria received different *things* for her birthday.
- 2 We played *games* for a long *time* on a rainy day.

Revision Tips

- 1 Underline general nouns such as *stuff*, *things*, *flowers*, *games*.
- 2 Brainstorm specific nouns to replace general words. Specific nouns are like snapshots: they enable others to imagine what you see.
- 3 Replace general words with the best specific nouns.
- 4 Rearrange, add, or delete words to improve the sentence.

Brainstorm Box

- ✿ **things:** secret diary, a green sweater, running sneakers
- ✿ **games:** Monopoly, checkers
- ✿ **time:** a rainy afternoon, near midnight, sunrise, early spring

After Examples

- 1 For her birthday Gloria received a secret diary, a green pullover sweater, and high-top running sneakers.
- 2 On a rainy day we played Monopoly and checkers to pass the time.

Get Students Involved

How did specific nouns sharpen the images? Why are specific words more interesting than general words?

Student 8 Activity

Directions: Choose three sentences and change the underlined general words to specific nouns.

Activity 8

1 At the grocery store, mom bought lots for dinner.

2 Three lizards shape-shifted into different things.

3 To build that dollhouse, she used many materials.

4 Our club sponsored the dance and decorated the gym with stuff.

Activity 8A

1 Mom and I went on a shopping spree and bought everything.

2 Shaundra wanted many things for Christmas.

3 The children played with toys.

4 Our club sold different dried foods to raise money.
