

# THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

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## Where Do IDEAS Come From?

Dreams  
Movies  
Chapter Books  
Picture Books  
Magazines  
Nature  
Personal Anecdotes  
Daydreams  
Fantasies  
Friends  
The Internet  
Conversations  
Famous Sayings  
Science  
Brainstorming  
Problem Solving  
Wondering  
Personal Experiences  
Feelings  
Newspaper Articles  
Headlines  
The Evening News

Bloopers  
You Tube  
Jokes  
Riddles  
Nursery Rhymes  
Family Traditions  
Family Stories  
Historical Events  
Pictures  
Text Messages  
Current Events  
Facebook  
Maps  
Myths and Legends  
Science Fiction  
Curious Objects  
Souvenirs  
Radio  
Fables  
Traditions



## The 12 Steps of the Writing Process

1. Think it

2. Talk it

3. Do it

4. Draw it

5. Explain it

6. Gather Vocabulary &  
Put Money in the Bank

7. Watch Modeling

8. Write it

9. Read it Aloud

10. Revise it

11. Edit it

12. Share it



## Narrative Writing

The word narrative means story. In a story, things happen in a certain order and there is the passing of time.

A personal narrative prompt asks you to tell about a time something happened to you. This can be something that actually happened, or you can make it up.

A creative narrative prompt asks you to write a story about imaginary characters, places, and happenings. You can use all of your creative powers for this one. A creative narrative can be realistic or fantasy.

Examples of narrative writing are:

interesting or cool stories  
dreams and nightmares  
adventures  
embarrassing stories  
things that have happened to you  
historical fiction  
fairy tales, fantasy, or science fiction



## Narrative Topics

A trip to the dentist  
Going shopping for something I've wanted  
Something scary happened to me  
My best friend and I had an adventure  
I went to my grandmother's house  
I helped cook dinner  
I got a new pet  
I saw something that made me laugh  
I fed the bird in my backyard  
My family went to the beach  
My family helped someone who needed help  
What happened on my birthday  
A time I got hurt  
I did something that got me into trouble  
A time I got lost  
Our family faced a big storm  
I borrowed something and lost it  
My sister told on me  
A television show made me laugh  
I made a big mistake  
I went to the circus/concert/play



## ...Narrative topics

I helped clean-out and wash the car  
My sister and I made brownies  
Something woke me up in the night  
I made a fort with my friend  
I rode my bike somewhere  
Someone special came to visit  
Something funny made me laugh  
I played on the team  
We went fishing



Someone hurt my feelings  
I acted in a rude way  
I had the best day  
We went to the mall  
We took a trip  
I made a huge mess  
I saw something amazing

A dream I've had  
A time I made/built something  
Someone played a joke on me

## Expository Writing

An expository prompt asks you to explain some information and give reasons and details that support the topic. Expository writing is usually "about" a topic and teaches you facts and information.

Expository writing is usually realistic. It can be truth, or fiction. Think about it as writing to inform the reader.

Examples of expository writing are:

non-fiction  
directions  
instructions  
hobbies  
games  
sporting events  
how-to  
advice  
news reports  
explanations  
plans and goals





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## Expository topics

My favorite meal  
 Someone I think is cool  
 A teacher who rocks  
 Stuff under my bed  
 How I get ready for school each morning  
 What I like to do on a Saturday  
 Someplace I'd like to visit  
 An easy-to-make snack  
 An animal I think is cool  
 Why hurricanes are dangerous  
 My grandfather  
 How our custodian helps our school  
 The life of a butterfly



How to ride a skateboard  
 A job I'd like to try  
 Something I'm good at  
 A magic trick I've learned



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## ...Expository topics

Three foods I hate  
 Stuff I've collected  
 My favorite present  
 The people who live with me  
 Introducing: Our Principal  
 My Church (Synagogue, club, etc.)  
 Going to the beach is a blast  
 How to keep from going crazy on a car trip  
 Something I'm afraid of  
 How to build a fort  
 All about my bedroom  
 A book I enjoyed reading  
 A chore I do for my family  
 Bedtime at my house  
 Something I've learned how to do



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## Persuasive Writing

Persuasive writing means the writer takes a position FOR or AGAINST something and writes to convince the reader to believe a specific point or do something he wants him to do.

Persuasive writing might also involve weighing the pros and cons on a given topic. The point has to make sense, give reasons, and be convincing.

Examples of persuasive writing are:

advertisements  
 reviews  
 brochures  
 courtroom arguments  
 opinions  
 comparisons/contrasts  
 debates  
 pleading your innocence  
 accusations



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## ...Persuasive Writing

In order to convince the reader, you'll need more than just your own opinion, however. You'll need backup, such as facts, a quote from an expert, personal testimonials, details, eye-witnesses, charts, samples, pictures, and examples.



### 1. Choose your position.

Weigh the pros and cons. Which side are you on? State your case clearly.

### 2. Consider your audience.

Who are you writing for? Who do you want to convince? How old is your audience? Consider the type of language and words you will use to convince your specific readers.

### 3. Research your topic.

Use the Internet. Interview experts. Get opinions. Ask for testimonials and endorsements. Quote books, articles, or experts. Add pictures.

### 4. Organize your thoughts.

Don't go on and on. Firmly state your case.



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## Per suasive Topics

which restaurant is best  
 why my state is a great place to live  
 we should wear or not wear school uniforms  
 athletes are paid way too much  
 kids should be allowed to stay up later  
 we should all eat healthy foods  
 cigarette smoking is bad news  
 why we should take more field trips to cool places  
 soccer is the best sport  
 why college is or is not for everyone  
 kids should be allowed to have jobs to make money  
 homework is too much for kids to do at night  
 bullies should be banned from sports and activities  
 eat healthy snacks and stay away from junk food  
 computer games are educational  
 school at night would be fun  
 swimming pools at school is a great idea  
 I've read a good book you would love  
 try to save your family money



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## ...Per suasive Topics

a hot climate is better for you than a cold climate  
 people should take better care of their animals  
 being an oceanographer is a terrific job  
 you don't have to buy brand new, expensive clothes  
 it's not easy being the "new kid"  
 my candidate is better than your candidate  
 kids should be able to pick their own bedtimes  
 hunting for animals is right/wrong  
 when you are sick, you should stay home  
 take care not to spread germs  
 flying is no more dangerous than driving  
 there are benefits to playing outside  
 be responsible for your own stuff  
 Disney World is the most fun place on earth  
 living near the ocean is great fun or is costly and dangerous  
 global warming is for real  
 every person should "give back" to the world



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## sentence variety

All writing needs variety! When you are practicing writing, see how many ways you can write the same thought or idea:



*Last week, our class went on a picnic at Park field and had so much fun.*

*All 23 of us in Mr. Becker's class piled into a big, yellow bus a few days ago and went out to the country for...you guessed it...a slammin' picnic!*

*Take one picnic basket, one bus full of kids, one bright sunny day, and what do you get? A picnic, of course, and that's what all of us in Mr. Becker's class did last week.*

*Who would think 23 kids and one teacher could have such a ball having something as simple as a picnic?*



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## The Five Main Parts of Writing

1. **Grabber** - This is a sentence or two that "hooks" your reader and makes him want to read more.

2. **Beginning** - This is a sentence that tells your reader what you are writing about. Be sure to include one or two important words from the prompt.

3. **Middle** - The middle is where you write details that go together and details that create "mind movies" for your reader. The middle should be orderly and organized. Be sure to include interesting facts, examples, reasons, mini-stories, and descriptions that help your reader picture what you are writing about. It is a good idea to indent when you change ideas or move on to a different time or location.

4. **Ending** - This is a sentence or two that wraps up your paper by telling the reader the most important thing you want to say.

5. **Zinger** - The zinger is kind of like a grabber, only at the end of your paper. A zinger can be an idiom, a phrase, or a sentence that makes the reader feel, laugh or think.







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## Grabbers

A grabber is an opening sentence or two that captures the reader's attention.

The grabber can be:

### a humorous statement

Sometimes I truly believe my mom has an extra set of eyes in the back of her head.

### a shocking statement

If you stacked up all of my little brother's diapers that I've changed, they'd reach to the moon and back!

### dialogue

When I saw the mess my dog CoCo made in my room, I shouted, "CoCo, you're driving me CRAZY!"

### onomatopoeia

I heard the ping-ping-ping of the other paintball guys and knew they were trying to take me out.



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## ...Grabbers

### a rhetorical question

Do you ever get the feeling that the substitute is out to get you?

### a scenario

Picture this: It's your mom's birthday and you've checked EVERYWHERE and you still don't have any money for a present.

### an opinion

I don't care what anyone says: the Chicago Cubs is the best team that ever played our national sport, baseball.

### a comparison

Owning a horse you can ride is cool, but having a dog of your own has its advantages.

If you had a taste of living where there are four, clear seasons, you'd never want to live where there's basically only one year-round season again.



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## Takeaway Endings

A takeaway ending tells the reader what you learned or how your life has changed.

Takeaway endings often start with:

After all is said and done...

Amazing as it might seem...

As I have said...

As I look back on...

Don't be surprised if...

Don't make the same mistake I did...

For now...

I hope you'll agree that...

I'll always remember...

I'm the luckiest kid in the world because...

It's certainly true that...

Just remember...

Most of all...

My life will be different now because...

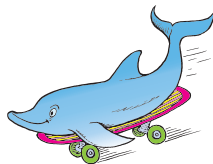
That about wraps it up...

The lesson I learned was...

There's no doubt about it...

There's no question that...

You can learn from my example...



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## Conclusions

A conclusion looks at important points, or "clues," in the writing and makes a statement based on those clues.

Conclusions often start with:

Because of this evidence, I can say...

Because of this, we can agree...

Evidence proves...

Experts agree...

For these reasons...

I now know for sure that...

I think we can say without a doubt...

My experiment proves...

Now you can see...

These things all add up to the conclusion that...

These things lead us to believe...

This experience leads me to believe...

This information is powerful when you see it all together.

When we look at it this way, we can see...





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## Emergency Landings

Sometimes, especially when you are being timed, time runs out and you have to end quickly. If you can use a well thought out ending, that's great. But if you get panicky, you can use what we call an "emergency landing." Memorize a few of these. If you get in a tight spot, you can finish out the sentence and you've got an ending!

I've come to the end of my thoughts.

This sums up my viewpoint.

I could go on and on, but let me end by saying...

I hope I've convinced you that...

My paper wouldn't be complete unless

I mentioned...

Since time is of the essence, I must end by saying...

The main thing I want to remind you of is...

I hope you can tell that I'm passionate about...

Thank you for sticking with me while I explained...

Even though I'm just a kid, I wanted you to know...



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## zingers

A zinger is a little extra we add AFTER THE ENDING, just to impress the reader.

The zinger makes you:

FEEL, SMILE, or THINK

The zinger can be a single word:

Ole! Bravo! Halleluia! Eureka!

The zinger can be a quote, a phrase, a song lyric, a line of poetry, or a familiar saying.

Some examples of zingers are:

I'll never do THAT again!

Thanks, Mom.

Cha-ching!

Go Team!

Love conquers all.

Better safe, than sorry.

Look before you leap.

If life gives you lemons, make lemonade.

Believe me, this won't ever happen again.



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## eight Grammar "Stars"

★ Don't use double negatives.

Jake doesn't have no friends. = Jake doesn't have any friends.

★ When something belongs to someone, be sure to use apostrophe and then the letter s ( 's ) to show ownership.

That is Lila bookbag. = That is Lila's bookbag.



★ Every sentence must have a subject and a verb.

Darius last Saturday. = Darius scored 12 baskets last Saturday.

★ Separate a list of nouns, adjectives, or adverbs by commas.

I bought ham cheese turkey. = I bought ham, cheese, and turkey.

★ Use the words IS, AM, or ARE in the present tense (now).

She be my best friend. = She is my best friend.



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## ...Eight Grammar "stars"

★ Make sure your subject and verb "agree" with each other. Agreeing means they go together correctly.

He run to the store for milk. = He ran to the store for milk.

★ The words EVERYBODY, ANYBODY, ANYONE, EACH, NEITHER, NOBODY, SOMEONE, and A PERSON are singular. They take singular pronouns: his, her, or its.

Someone better get their stuff out of my desk =

Someone better get his stuff out of my desk.

(her stuff would be correct, too)



★ If you are writing in the first person (I, me, my, we, our, us), don't switch to the third person (he, she, they, it). You can refer to other people, but keep your "point of view" as though you are writing and seeing things with your own eyes.

I ate breakfast. Then he brushed his teeth and got my coat. =

I ate breakfast. Then I brushed my teeth and got my coat.

## punctuation

Make sure to check your writing for these:



### Capital Letters

These guys are so important! ALWAYS begin a sentence with a capital letter. Use a capital letter for every proper noun or name.



### periods

ALWAYS end every ordinary sentence with a period. A period is like a stop sign. It tells the reader he has arrived at the end of a complete thought.



### exclamation point

If you want to show excitement of any kind, ALWAYS use an exclamation point! If you're REALLY excited, use several exclamation points!!!



### question mark

If you're asking a question, ALWAYS use a question mark. This is the sign for the reader to ask himself, "Hmm...what IS the answer to that question?"

## ...punctuation



### indentation



ALWAYS indent the first paragraph of anything you're writing. Indent every time you introduce a new idea, new speaker, change times, or location.



### commas in a series

ALWAYS use commas between words in a series: nouns, adjectives, adverbs, etc.



### quotation marks

ALWAYS use quotation marks when someone is speaking.



### Ellipsis

When you want to create a pause in your writing, ALWAYS use an ellipsis. An ellipsis is three little dots in a row and is a sign for your reader to pause. Using an ellipsis helps add tone and voice to your writing.

## capital letters

Be sure to use capital letters for the following:

The beginning of a sentence  
Someone's name  
Days of the week  
Months of the year  
A brand name  
A television show  
A movie  
A book title  
A poem title  
A magazine title  
A newspaper  
A play  
The name of a city  
The name of a state  
The name of a country  
Titles



Colleges and Universities  
Languages  
Religions  
Ethnicity  
Nationalities

## five Things for Writers to Focus On

**Focus** - Are all of your sentences on the topic? Does everything focus in on the main idea?

**Organization** - Do you have a beginning, a middle, and an ending? Are things in order?

**Support** - Did you support a main idea with juicy details your reader can picture? Does your writing feel complete?

**Conventions** - Did you use capital letters, end punctuation, and pretty good spelling? Did you invent spelling for words you don't know how to spell? Did you indent?



**Audience** - Who are you writing for? Who will be your reader? Are you using the right topic, tone of voice, and language for your reader?

## writing skills that make your writing stupendous

**Amplified Writing** - Make a statement, then back it up with two or three other statements.

Boy, can my Auntie Jenna cook! She makes the most delicious red beans and rice you've ever tasted, and it's full of sausage.

**Appositives** - An appositive reidentifies a noun.

My Tae Kwan Do instructor, Mr. Mike Kapinski, has won every belt you can imagine.



**Conclusions** - A conclusion wraps up all the important statements in your paper and boils it down to one or two.

My life will never be the same because of a P.E. coach named Jerry DeLessio. He believed in me when no one else did.

**Descriptive Writing** - Descriptive writing helps your reader picture exactly what you are talking about.

The flamingos spread their fluffy, coral wings and chattered noisily, high in the top of the rippling palms.

**Dialogue** - It is interesting for the reader to know what your characters say.

Maggie said, "Charles got caught fighting on the bus. He's in trouble!" "You're kidding. What happened?" Curt questioned.

## ...writing skills

**Grabbers** - Just like a "teaser" on television pulls your interest into the next show, a grabber pulls your reader in. *Little did I know, the summer I turned 10, that something so amazing, so magical, would happen and it would change my life forever.*

**Great Beginning** - The beginning of your paper makes a lasting impression on your reader and introduces the topic. *Making ice cream sundaes for your family is not only easy, but it's great when you need to keep your sister from telling on you.*

**Hyperbole** - Everyone likes to exaggerate every now and then. Hyperbole adds humor and voice to your writing. *We picked sweet, juicy blueberries that were the size of baseballs.*

**Idioms** - Idioms are exaggerated sayings that make a point. *It's no skin off my nose if you chose not to study for the test.*

**Metaphors** - Similar to idioms, metaphors compare two things in order to make a point. *When we tried to build a fort, we hit a snag.*



**Mini-Story** - Everyone has a story of something that has happened to us. Think of your best ones and use them in your writing to add a personal touch.

*I'll never forget the time a rusty nail taught me I should wear my sneakers when I'm playing down by the riverbed.*

## ...writing skills

**Personal Opinion** - Everyone has a personal opinion, and your reader wants to hear yours.

*In my opinion, kids don't have any business having homework on week nights OR ever.*

**Onomatopoeia** - Who doesn't love sound effects?

Onomatopoeia puts the reader into the immediate action. *Crash! When I was trying to sneak in and get in bed without anyone noticing, I knocked over my sister's alarm clock.*

**Similes** - Use the words "like" and "as" to make a point.

*Elena cooks like a Food Network Star.*  
*Our school bus is as sturdy as a battlefield tank.*



**Sizzling Vocabulary** - Use great words to add sizzle!

*Monica cringed when she had to stand there and listen to her boss yell and harangue her with criticism.*

**Specific Emotion Words** - Your reader wants to know just how you feel or felt when something happened. Tell her!

*Ty felt like someone punched him in the gut when they lost.*

**Specific Sensory Words** - Adding some of the five senses adds authenticity to your writing.

*I felt the breeze blow across my face and heard the rustle of the leaves in the tree. The rain was coming, and I could smell it.*

## ...writing skills

**Strong Verbs** - Strong verbs add punch to your writing. *I skyrocketed to the office to get help.*

**Supporting with Reasons and Details** - Don't hold back. *If you learn to swim, it might save your life someday, or someone else's.*

**Takeaway Endings** - A takeaway ending tells your reader what you learned or how your life changed. *I'll never criticize my grandmother again, not after what she did for me that summer.*

**Transitional Phrases** - Try using great connecting phrases or whole sentences to pull your reader through your writing. *If you think that's funny, listen to what happened next.*

**Zingers** - A zinger, which makes the reader feel, smile, or think, is a terrific way to end any writing.

*PS: Fireworks are for WATCHING, not for playing with.*

**Voice** - Don't try to sound like someone else. Let your own style and personality shine through your writing. Use humor, expressions, and pizzazz.

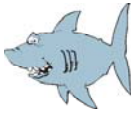
*And so, dear readers, there you have it: another exciting episode in the life of Shanna, eight-year-old detective.*





## "As" Similes

As agile as a monkey  
 As alike as two peas in a pod  
 As big as a bus  
 As big as an elephant  
 As black as midnight  
 As brave as a lion  
 As bright as day  
 As busy as a beaver  
 As busy as a bee  
 As clean as a whistle  
 As clear as a bell  
 As clear as crystal  
 As clear as mud  
 As cold as ice  
 As cool as a cucumber  
 As crazy as a bedbug  
 As crooked as a dog's hind leg  
 As cunning as a fox  
 As cute as a button  
 As dead as a doornail  
 As delicate as a flower  
 As different as night and day  
 As dry as a bone  
 As dull as dishwater  
 As easy as A,B,C  
 As easy as pie  
 As fit as a fiddle  
 As flat as a pancake  
 As free as a bird  
 As fresh as a daisy  
 As gentle as a lamb  
 As happy as a lark  
 As happy as a pig in a mud puddle  
 As hard as nails  
 As hoarse as a crow  
 As hungry as a bear



As hungry as a wolf  
 As innocent as a lamb  
 As large as life  
 As light as a feather  
 As light as air  
 As mad as a hatter  
 As mad as a hornet  
 As neat as a pin  
 As nutty as a fruitcake  
 As old as the hills  
 As pale as death  
 As plain as day  
 As pleased as punch  
 As poor as a church mouse  
 As poor as dirt  
 As pretty as a picture  
 As proud as a peacock  
 As pure as the driven snow  
 As quick as a wink  
 As quick as lightning  
 As right as rain  
 As scarce as hen's teeth  
 As sensitive as a flower  
 As sharp as a tack  
 As sharp as a razor  
 As sick as a dog  
 As silly as a goose  
 As slippery as an eel  
 As slow as molasses  
 As slow as a snail  
 As slow as a tortoise  
 As smooth as silk  
 As snug as a bug in a rug  
 As solid as a rock  
 As tight as a drum  
 As ugly as a mud fence

## "I like" Similes

acts like she's the teacher  
 chatters like a monkey  
 cooks like a chef  
 cries like a baby  
 cuts like a knife  
 draws like an artist  
 dresses like a model  
 drives like a maniac  
 drives like an old lady  
 eats like a bird  
 eats like a horse  
 eyes like a hawk  
 feels like velvet  
 fits like a glove  
 flies like a bird  
 floats like a boat  
 gossips like an old biddy  
 grows like a weed  
 irritates like sandpaper  
 jumps like a frog  
 keeps a secret like a vault  
 know it like the back of your hand  
 laughs like a hyena  
 like finding a needle in a haystack  
 looks like a giant  
 love is like a red rose  
 plays guitar like a rock star  
 plays like an athlete



reads like a bookworm  
 roars like a lion  
 runs like a rocket  
 runs like the wind  
 searches like a bloodhound  
 shimmers like a diamond  
 sings like an angel  
 sits around like a couch potato  
 sleeps like a baby  
 smells like a wet goat  
 smells like money  
 smells like rain  
 smokes like a chimney  
 smooth like silk  
 snores like a buzz saw  
 soars like an eagle  
 sounds like trouble  
 sparkles like fireworks  
 spends money like it grows on trees  
 stretches like a rubber band  
 studies like a fiend  
 swims like a fish  
 talks like a parrot  
 talks like a house afire  
 tastes like ambrosia  
 works like a dog  
 works like there's no tomorrow  
 works like a horse

## metaphors

Be careful whose toes you step on.  
 Don't beat around the bush.  
 Don't wait till the cows come home  
 Get your ducks in a row.  
 He had a heart of stone.  
 She is the sunshine of my day.  
 My mother is the light of my life.  
 My little sister is a jumping bean.  
 Now he's rolling in dough.  
 Mom says I'm the apple of her eye.  
 He's just a big old teddy bear.  
 He is 24 karat gold.  
 He will stab you in the back.  
 He's burning the candle at both ends.  
 He's such a motor mouth.  
 Her ideas are over the top.  
 I can be a headache sometimes.  
 I gave her an earful.  
 I got a slap on the wrist this time.  
 I had a lot on my plate.  
 I love her to death.  
 I was a basket case.  
 I was ticked off for sure.  
 I was up the creek without a paddle.  
 I'll get back on my feet soon.  
 I'm at the end of my rope.  
 I'm burned out.  
 I'm fired up.  
 I'm not in love with that idea.  
 In one ear and out the other.



I've been running a rat race all day.  
 It's raining cats and dogs.  
 Let's play ball.  
 Let's put our minds together.  
 My father has the heart of a lion.  
 My lips are sealed.  
 Now that's a home run of an idea.  
 Our car turned out to be a lemon.  
 Put the pedal to the metal.  
 She can kill you with kindness.  
 She is a real live treasure  
 She's a living doll.  
 She's clueless.  
 Take a stab at it.  
 That bugs me.  
 That just blows me away.  
 That's on the cutting edge.  
 The ball's in your court.  
 This will knock your socks off.  
 Watch your back.  
 We hit the ground running.  
 We're swamped today.  
 Well that's a no-brainer  
 Well, join the club.  
 You do the math.  
 You need to raise the bar.  
 You think outside of the box.  
 You're in deep trouble.  
 You're in over your head.  
 You're missing a piece of the puzzle.

## idioms

Idioms are colorful expressions we use in our speech and our writing. They add an element of fun for the reader. Idioms and metaphors are very similar.

### Idioms for "working hard"

burning the midnight oil  
 burning the candle at both ends  
 putting his back into it  
 going full speed ahead  
 making hay while the sun shines



### Idioms for "exceptionally good"

7th heaven  
 a little piece of heaven  
 a little slice of wonderful  
 all that and a bag of chips  
 apple of my eye  
 beyond imagination  
 beyond your wildest dreams  
 crackerjack  
 creme de la creme  
 divine  
 heavenly  
 off the chain  
 off the charts

on cloud 9  
 out of this world  
 the absolute be all and end all  
 the be all and the end all  
 the bee's knees  
 the cat's meow  
 the cat's pajamas  
 the genuine article  
 the gold standard  
 the mack daddy  
 the real deal  
 the top of the world  
 world class

## ...idioms

Idioms for "exceptionally terrible"

not pretty  
 out of the frying pan into the fire  
 pretty ugly  
 something you wouldn't wish on your worst enemy  
 that spells trouble  
 the last straw  
 the straw that broke the camel's back  
 train wreck  
 up the creek without a paddle  
 you're asking for it  
 you're asking for trouble  
 you're barking up the wrong tree  
 you're in deep water  
 you're in hot water  
 you're in the dog house  
 you're standing on my last nerve  
 you're toast  
 your goose is cooked



Idioms for "easy"

a snap  
 as simple as pie  
 easy breezy  
 like falling off a log  
 like taking candy from a baby  
 piece of cake



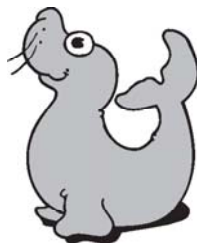
## Transitional Phrases &amp; Sentences

After all...  
 After what seemed like a long time...  
 And guess what?  
 At that point...  
 At the same time...  
 Because of this...  
 But at the same time...  
 Come with me and I'll show you...  
 First of all...  
 For instance...  
 For that reason...  
 Here's the best part.  
 Here's the thing.  
 Hold on. It gets better!  
 I especially like...  
 I must tell you...  
 I still have nightmares about what happened next.  
 I wish I had more time to tell you about...  
 I'd like to bring my explanation to an end by saying...  
 If you think that's bad, it gets worse.  
 If you think that's scary, wait till you hear...  
 In any case...  
 In fact...  
 In other words...



## ...Transitional Phrases &amp; Sentences

In the first place...  
 In the meantime...  
 Just then...  
 Just when I thought it couldn't get any worse...  
 Later on...  
 Let me begin.  
 Let me end my story by saying...  
 Let me give you an example.  
 Let me remind you...  
 Let me sum up my thoughts by saying...  
 Let's start at the beginning.  
 Moving on...  
 My favorite part is...  
 My story wouldn't be complete if I didn't tell you about...  
 Never again will I...  
 Now comes the part that got me into trouble.  
 Now that we've looked at that, let's move on to...  
 Now you see ...  
 Oh, and another thing...  
 On the other hand...  
 Once that happened...  
 Once you complete that step...  
 Right after that...  
 Right away...  
 Sooner or later...



## ...Transitional Phrases &amp; Sentences

Step into my world and I'll tell you...  
 The first step is a piece of cake.  
 The first thing that happened was...  
 The lesson I learned is...  
 The most important thing is...  
 The next thing that happened knocked my socks off.  
 The second step is a doozie.  
 The thing I hate about it is...  
 This happened because...  
 This may be true, but...  
 This next part is a doozie!  
 To begin with...  
 To put it a different way...  
 To put it differently...  
 Until now...  
 Until then...  
 What happened next still gives me the willies!  
 When all was said and done...  
 When I found out the truth...  
 When I realized what had actually happened...  
 When she realized I was telling the truth...  
 When we finally got home...  
 When you hear what happened...  
 You need to know that...  
 You won't believe what happened next.



## dialogue

Dialogue means conversation. You can talk to yourself, to another person, or to a whole group. When it comes to writing, dialogue makes your writing much more interesting.

When you write dialogue, you need to put quotation marks before and after. That lets the reader know that someone is talking. You can use the word, "said," and a person's name or with an adverb, to describe how he said it. You can use a strong verb, which takes the place of "said." Or, you can let the dialogue stand on its own without any tags.

"I'll help you with your homework," Tom said.  
Shandria said, "That would be awesome."

**said**



"Come over today after school," Caleb begged.  
"Okay," Marco answered.

**strong verbs**

"Brian, settle down," Mrs. Ranson said sternly.  
"Yes, ma'am," Brian said quietly.

**adverb**

"Want to ride skateboards?"  
"Sure! Let's go."

**no tags**

## writing to a prompt

Many times young writers are asked to write to a prompt. A prompt is usually written in the form of instructions:

**Life has it's embarrassing moments! Think of a time you did something really embarrassing. Now write a personal narrative about your embarrassing moment.**



1. Read the prompt two or three times. You'd be amazed at how many writers don't do this and get confused. Read!

2. Consider what the prompt is asking you to write: A personal narrative? A creative narrative? An expository or persuasive piece?

3. Don't copy the prompt word for word. Instead, refer to the prompt in the beginning by using a few key words.

## creative license

Being able to write well is one of the greatest keys to a successful life. Writing doesn't have to be drudgery! Use your imagination and tap into your creative side. Just to be sure you feel free to do just that, here is your very own official "creative license."

### CREATIVE LICENSE

\_\_\_\_\_

print your name

Has been given permission to make things up, stretch the truth, tell big whoppers, and spin yarns in order to make his/her writing more creative.



## writer's checklist

- ☐ Name on Paper
- ☐ Date on Paper
- ☐ Grabber
- ☐ Beginning that Introduces the Prompt or Topic
- ☐ Descriptive Language
- ☐ Dialogue
- ☐ Specific Writing Skills (pp. 27-30)
- ☐ Transitional Phrases and Sentences
- ☐ Sentences Start Differently
- ☐ Some Sentences are short and Some are Long
- ☐ Sizzling Vocabulary Words
- ☐ Supporting Details & Reasons (Expository and Persuasive)
  - samples, examples, reasons, mini-story, testimony, quote, facts, comparison, interview
- ☐ Sequencing and Passing of Time (Narrative)
- ☐ Conclusion
- ☐ Takeaway Ending
- ☐ Zinger
- ☐ Revised
- ☐ Edited Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar
- ☐ Read it Aloud
- ☐ Shared it With Someone Else





## first aid questions for writers

Does the beginning grab or hook the reader's attention?

Are there any unanswered questions? Did I answer WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, AND HOW?

Can I substitute a sizzling word for a boring word?



Can I add more information to support a thought or idea?

Is there a statement that needs more explanation with reasons, details, or examples?

Do my readers need more description to be able to picture what I'm writing about?

Do most of my sentences start with different beginnings?

Is there a fresher, more interesting way to express myself?

Did I use similes, metaphors, strong verbs, specific emotion words, sensory words, onomatopoeia, or dialogue to make my writing colorful and enjoyable for my readers?

Does every sentence focus on the topic?

Did I use transitional phrases between thoughts and ideas?

Does the ending bring this piece to a smooth finish?



## A word about Spelling

Don't get uptight about spelling. Being a good speller doesn't make you a good writer. Writing with description and passion makes you a good writer. You can always fix spelling later.

**It is better to GUESS at the spelling of a creative, sizzling word than to use a simple, boring word that you are sure you can spell. Don't be afraid to take risks. Use those strong words!**



**The most important thing is for you to get your thoughts down on paper. Ask yourself, "What is the word that REALLY expresses what I want to say?" Even if you can't spell it, USE IT! When you finish, You can always look up words later to check on spelling.**



## commonly misspelled words

a lot	calendar	February
a while	camouflage	first
acceptable	cantaloupe	for
accidental	carry	four
across	category	friend
again	cheese	government
always	close	grammar
animal	clothes	grateful
argument	committed	guarantee
ate	conscience	guess
beautiful	could	hear
because	definite	height
begin	disappear	here
being	disappointment	high
believe	discipline	humorous
bicycle	don't	immediate
biscuit	eight	it's
bring	embarrass	its
broccoli	embarrassing	jewelry
business	every	knowledge
buy	example	library
by	experience	license



## ...commonly misspelled words

lightning	remember	through
loose	restaurant	to
lose	rhyme	together
ma'am	rhythm	tomorrow
many	right	too
medieval	said	twelfth
might	salary	two
misspell	sandwich	until
mosquito	school	vacuum
much	scissors	weather
neighbor	second	Wednesday
no one	separate	weird
onomatopoeia	should	when
people	sight	which
picture	some	without
pleasant	something	woman
principal	story	women
pronunciation	their	won't
receipt	there	would
receive	they're	write
recipe	thought	yesterday
religious	threw	you'll







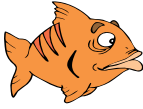
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## Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

## onomatopoeia

bam  
bang  
boink  
burp  
clang  
clink  
crack  
crash  
drip  
gurgle  
kablam  
kaboom  
smack  
splash  
tinkle  
varoom  
whieee  
whir  
whoosh  
zoom



## "said"

agreed  
argued  
asked  
begged  
cried  
demanded  
exclaimed  
interrupted  
moaned  
mocked  
muttered  
questioned  
reminded  
scolded  
screamed  
screeched  
shouted  
threatened  
whispered  
yelled



48



## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

## ugly

disgusting  
disgusting looking  
dog-face  
dowdy  
frumpy  
grotesque  
gruesome  
hard on the eyes  
hideous  
homely  
loathsome  
mousy  
mud ugly  
plain  
repulsive  
revolting  
skank  
unappealing  
unattractive  
unsightly  
vile  
wretched



## pretty

adorable  
attractive  
beautiful  
breathtaking  
charming  
cute  
dazzling  
drop-dead  
gorgeous  
enchanted  
exquisite  
eye-candy  
eye-catching  
fetching  
foxy  
good-looking  
gorgeous  
handsome  
lovely  
radiant  
striking  
stunning



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## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

## Florida

alligator  
beaches  
Blue Angels  
Disney World  
Everglades  
hurricane  
Lake Okeechobee  
manatee  
mockingbird  
orange juice  
panther  
sandhill crane  
Seminoles  
St. Augustine  
sunshine  
Tallahassee  
tourists



## Love (verb)

admire  
adore  
am crazy about  
am devoted to  
am fond of  
am nuts about  
care for  
cherish  
flip over  
go ape over  
hold in esteem  
idolize  
prize  
think highly of  
treasure  
value  
worship



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## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

## family member s

ancestors  
aunt/uncle  
brother/sister  
brother-in-law  
cousin  
forefathers  
grandfather  
grandma/grandpa  
grandmother  
great grandma  
great grandpa  
mom/dad  
mommy/daddy  
mother/father  
niece/nephew  
sister-in-law  
stepfather  
stepmother



## weat her

blue skies  
blizzard  
breezy  
clear  
cloudy  
drizzling  
foggy  
gloomy  
gorgeous  
hurricane  
misting  
pouring  
raining cats & dogs  
snowy  
sunny  
tornado  
torrential downpour  
windy



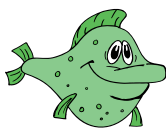
51



## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**big**

astronomical  
behemoth  
colossal  
elephantine  
enormous  
giant  
gigantic  
herculean  
hippopotamic  
huge  
humongous  
immense  
jumbo  
king size  
large  
mammoth  
massive  
monster  
monstrous  
mountainous  
titanic  
vast  
whopping

**small**

dinky  
dwarf  
eensy weensy  
itsy bitsy  
itty bitty  
Lilliputian  
little  
microscopic  
miniature  
miniscule  
minute  
pee wee  
petite  
pint-size  
pocket-size  
puny  
shrimp  
teeny  
teeny-weeny  
tiny  
wee  
weensy



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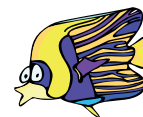
## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**good**

awesome  
delicious  
delightful  
enjoyable  
excellent  
exceptional  
extraordinary  
fabulous  
fantastic  
first-rate  
marvelous  
phenomenal  
stupendous  
super  
superb  
superlative  
terrific  
the best ever  
to die for  
wonderful  
wondrous

**bad**

appalling  
atrocious  
awful  
catastrophic  
disgusting  
dreadful  
evil  
foul  
frightful  
horrendous  
horrible  
horrific  
horrifying  
nasty  
naughty  
no good  
rotten  
shocking  
terrible  
terrifying  
wicked



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## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**hot**

blazing  
blistering  
boiling  
broiling  
burning  
fiery  
scalding  
scorching  
searing  
sizzling  
spicy  
steamy  
stifling  
suffocating  
sultry  
sweltering

**cold**

arctic  
bitter  
bone-chilling  
brisk  
chilly  
cool  
freezing  
frigid  
frosty  
frozen  
icy  
like ice  
nippy  
sub-zero  
teeth-chattering  
wintry



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## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**"up" emotions**

appreciated  
elated  
excited  
exhilarated  
included  
joyful  
joyous  
jubilant  
loved  
noticed  
overjoyed  
proud  
relieved  
safe  
special  
successful

**"down" emotions**

ashamed  
dejected  
depressed  
disrespected  
embarrassed  
excluded  
frustrated  
guilty  
lonely  
lost  
neglected  
rejected  
sad  
shameful  
shocked  
worthless





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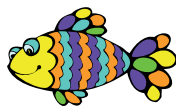
## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**go fast**

blitz  
burn rubber  
careen  
fly  
hurtle  
jet  
peel out  
race  
rip  
rocket  
scratch off  
skyrocket  
speed  
take off  
whiz  
whoosh  
zip  
zoom

**go slow**

as slow as molasses  
in January  
barely moving  
crawl  
creep  
edge  
inch  
meander  
move at a snail's pace  
move in slow motion  
shuffle  
sidle  
skulk  
slink  
stroll leisurely  
tip toe  
unhurried



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## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**tasty**

a little slice of  
heaven  
angel food  
appetizing  
delectable  
delicious  
divine  
finger-lickin'-good  
flavorful  
heavenly  
luscious  
melt-in-your-mouth  
mouthwatering  
savory  
scrumptious  
succulent  
to-die-for  
yummy

**yucky**

bitter  
disagreeable  
dreadful  
foul  
gross  
indigestible  
inedible  
nasty  
putrid  
rank  
repulsive  
revolting  
rotten  
sour  
unpalatable  
unpleasant  
unsavory  
wretched



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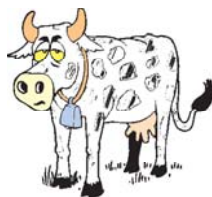
## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**interesting**

absorbing  
appealing  
attention-grabbing  
attractive  
captivating  
curious  
enthralling  
exciting  
extraordinary  
fascinating  
intriguing  
mesmerizing  
noteworthy  
remarkable  
spellbinding  
stimulating  
thought-provoking

**boring**

dreary  
dull  
humdrum  
lackluster  
mind-numbing  
monotonous  
repetitive  
tedious  
tiresome  
unexciting  
uninspiring  
uninteresting  
wearisome



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## ...Sizzling Vocabulary

**strong**

beefy  
brawny  
burly  
heavy-duty  
intense  
made to last  
muscular  
strapping  
sturdy  
tough  
well-built

**weak**

anemic  
delicate  
drained  
exhausted  
faint  
feeble  
flimsy  
frail  
helpless  
Minnie Mouse  
puny  
scrawny





59



## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

happy

appreciative

beside herself

blissful

cheerful

content

delighted

ecstatic

elated

glad

joyful

on cloud nine

over the moon

overjoyed

pleased

satisfied

thankful

thrilled



sad

dejected

depressed

desolate

despondent

down

feeling blue

feeling like Eeyore

forlorn

gloomy

heartbroken

melancholy

miserable

sorrowful

under a black

cloud

woeful

wretched



60



## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

irritating

aggravating

annoying

bothersome

driving me crazy

driving me up

the wall

exasperating

frustrating

getting on my

nerves

grating

infuriating

maddening

making me nuts

provoking

angry

annoyed

blow my stack

blow my top

boiling over

cross

disgusted

enraged

flip my lid

fuming

furious

hacked off

mad

outraged

seething

steaming

ticked off



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## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

**blue**

aqua

azure

baby blue

cerulean

cobalt

cornflower

denim

electric

indigo

midnight

navy

ocean

periwinkle

royal

sapphire

sky

wedgewood

**green**

army

asparagus

chartreuse

emerald

fern

forest

hunter

jade

jungle

lime

moss

olive

pea

pine

pistachio

sea

shamrock



62



## ...Sizzl ing Vocabul ary

**orange**

amber

apricot

carrot

coral

curry

fluorescent

ginger

marigold

peach

pumpkin

rust

sunset

tangerine

**purple**

aubergine

eggplant

heliotrope

grape

lavendar

lilac

magenta

mulberry

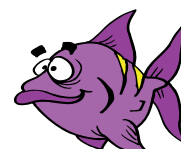
orchid

pansy

raspberry

royal

violet





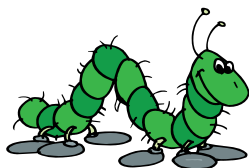
## 63 ...Sizzl ing Vocabulary

### brown

auburn  
beige  
bronze  
burnt sienna  
burnt umber  
caramel  
chestnut  
chocolate  
cinnamon  
coffee  
mahogany  
maple  
mocha  
nutmeg  
russet  
tan  
toffee

### black

ash  
charcoal  
coal  
ebony  
inky  
licorice  
midnight  
negrón  
pitch  
raven  
tar



## 64 ...Sizzl ing Vocabulary

### white

alabaster  
bone  
cloud  
cream  
creamy  
ecru  
ghostly  
iridescent  
ivory  
linen  
manila  
milky  
off  
pearl  
snow  
stark  
vanilla

### crazy mixed up colors

barber pole  
camouflage  
dalmatian  
fluorescent  
Hawaiian  
hologram  
kaleidoscope  
khaki  
leopard  
metallic  
mirror  
mother-of-pearl  
peppermint  
rainbow  
tie-dye  
tutti frutti  
zebra



## 65 ...Sizzl ing Vocabulary

### red

brick  
burgundy  
candy apple  
red  
cherry  
cranberry  
fire engine  
red  
fuchsia  
garnet  
maroon  
paprika  
pink  
rose  
ruby  
rust  
scarlet  
strawberry  
watermelon

### yellow

blonde  
butter  
buttercream  
egg yolk yellow  
gold  
golden  
goldenrod  
jaundice  
lemon  
neon  
school bus yellow  
sunflower  
sunny



## 66

### Avoid Tacky Expressions

Hi. My name is ...  
I'm going to tell you a story about...  
Do you want me to tell you about...  
My three main reasons are...  
The first reason is...  
Thirdly...  
Finally...  
I'm going to write about...  
I hope you liked my story.  
Bye, gotta go now.  
The End  
So long for now...  
See you later...  
My third reason is...  
And that's the end of my story.  
And I woke up and it was all a dream.  
I can't think of anything else to say so....  
Don't you think I wrote a good story?  
Do you have a story you want to tell me?  
Check here if you liked my story.  
Do you have a favorite pet? Well, I do. It's...  
My teacher said I have to write about...



## content and creativity

The two most important things we strive for as writers is CONTENT and CREATIVITY.

**Content means  
what you have to say.**



**If you want your writing to be  
well-received, you've got to have  
a story, or some information, or  
something important to say.**

**Creativity means how beautifully  
you write what you want to say.**

**You can add beauty to your  
writing with well-written  
sentences, writing skills,  
sizzling vocabulary, and passion.**



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## voice

Every writer has a unique "voice." Voice means the way we express ourselves, our written personality. Other people can recognize our writing, sometimes, just by the way we sound on paper.

When you are writing, don't try to sound like someone else. Be yourself. Don't try to sound formal. Be yourself. Don't try to use words you never use when you're speaking. Be yourself.

Have you caught on, yet? Let your own voice shine through your writing. "Talk" to your reader as if you could see him when you are writing. Don't be obnoxious, by all means, but let your personality come through your writing.

These things help you put voice into  
your writing:  
expressions you normally use  
passion  
mini-stories  
examples  
a familiar tone



# YOUNG WRITER'S SURVIVAL KIT



**MELISSA FORNEY**