

Back to school writing ideas

from 'The Writing Book' and other sources.

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Graphic organisers

1. Alphabet brainstorm (p 101, PM 12)

Students describe experiences from their holidays using the letters of the alphabet as prompts.

Ate yummy icecream	Jumped in the pool	Saw lots of dud's
Bought new lunchbox	Kittens came to my house	Told dad a secret
Called Anya lots of times	Loads of lollies	Used Dad's computer
Done some writing	Made scrambled eggs	Vacation to china got Permanent
Eat lots of lollies	Now have a new jacket	Wrote a new diary
Found my blue teddy bear	Our dad got a new phone	Xcellent time at Big Up
Gone to Anya's house	Played piano	Yawned almost every day
Hole in my friend's roof	Quite creative class	Zip from my jacket broken
Ice-skated with my friends	Read lots of cool books	

2. Setting T chart (p 124, PM 14)

Students choose a setting from their holiday and describe eg: family barbeque, campsite, at the beach, on a boat, Christmas dinner.

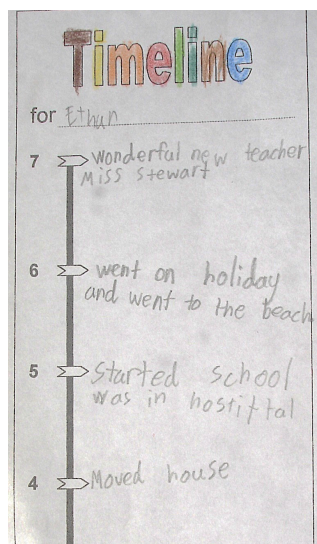
3. Character brainstorm Y chart (p 103, PM 13)

Students choose to describe themselves, a person they know or met during their holiday.

4. Make a desk mat

Go to Sheena's Wikispace classroomenvironmentdownloads.wikispaces.com to 'Downloads' on the left hand-side. There are templates at junior and senior levels.

5. Personal Timeline



Students make a timeline of the important events in their lives. Timeline templates are downloadable from sheenacameron.com – go to the resources link and under 'Reading activities' there is an A4 photocopy master with 2 timelines - one for students up to 7 years and one for students up to 12 years. Once they have completed their timeline, they could choose one event and write a more detailed memoir.

Quick writes to get to know your students

1. *Speed writing* (p127) Use the generic writing ideas on p180. Here are some from the 'All about you' section.

- What is your favourite time of day? Why?
- What is your favourite room in the house? Why?
- What is the best gift you've ever given to anyone? What made it so special?
- What is the most special gift that you have ever received?
- Have you ever been given a present you didn't like? Who gave it to you? What was it? What did you say to the person who gave it to you?
- What person outside your family is most special to you? Why?
- Describe a time when you were brave.
- How old were you four years ago? Describe some things you can do now that you could not do then.
- What is one of the funniest things that has ever happened to you?
- Think of a time when you achieved a personal goal. What was it, and how did you feel when you accomplished this goal?
- Write about a time when you felt really disappointed about something.
- Describe a time you were hurt. What happened, and who helped you?
- What do you think about when you can't fall asleep?
- Describe your favourite place to go swimming.

2. *List it* (p116) Students make a list of their favourite smells, sounds or memories from their holiday.

3. *Map it* (p117) Students draw a map of a place they visited in the holidays or around their own community. They could also make a travel brochure.

4. *Fact or fib* (p108) Students write a fact or fib about themselves. Other students guess whether it is a fact or fib. Use as an activity for students to get to know each other.

5. *A moment in time* (p100)



This writing structure can be adapted across many levels.

My summer challenge

*I heard splashing and the other kids laughing.
I heard my brother say, 'Hurry up Troy!'
I saw the deep green river a long way down in the distance.
I felt the roughness of the rope swing.
I felt my heart pounding.
I wondered if my hands would slip on the rope.
I wondered if I would finally be able to do it this time.
– Troy*

6. *Change it* (p102) Students write about a holiday experience but change it from a personal recount to another writing form such as a TV news report, eg: Boy catches first fish. Postcards or Twitter tweets could also be used.

Ideas to display writing

Remember you don't always have to publish a whole piece of writing. Students could choose their best word, sentence or paragraph.

Writeable dioramas link

<http://profehanson.weebly.com/templates-for-foldables.html>

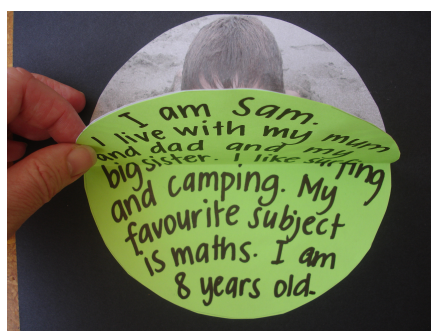
Scroll down the page and download the pyramid template and the diorama template. This is a quick publishing idea as students can insert photos and write directly on to the template.

In the moment pictures

Take a photo of the student in an appropriate position for their sentence/writing. Students cut out their photo and glue onto their paper and illustrate the background.



Flip stories



Cut out two circles (other shapes work too). Glue one circle to the backing paper. Fold the second circle in half. Glue the top half to the other circle.

Thank you to Jane Martin from Three Kings School and Greenhithe School for their wonderful ideas.