

Why Writing Starts?

Many teachers have their students do daily journal writing, write on topics related to units of study, practice creative writing, or do an occasional spontaneous writing activity. Many of these teachers are looking for suggestions for writing topics or story starters. With everything else that teachers have to do each day, it is often hard to think up fresh ideas for these quick writings. Consequently, we have had many requests from teachers for journal ideas and story starters. We have often heard, “Just give us a list.” Well, this book contains such a list with more than **850 ideas plus 100 story-starter picture cards!** There are suggestions for every grade level, elementary through high school. The topics range from serious to absolutely silly. Of course some of these suggestions could elicit one-liners, but we know you and your students can find creative ways to develop the writing topics. Such a list could be organized many ways, but we decided to put the ideas in categories based on the letters of the alphabet. As you will see, at least one word in each idea begins with the specific letter under which it is listed. We have also given you a few empty lines at the end of each list so that you or your students can add more ideas. You’ll find the story-starter picture cards after the topic lists. We have given you some blank cards as well in case you want to add your own pictures.

How to Use the Lists

Some of the topics included in these lists can be adapted for any grade level. Others are definitely more appropriate for upper or lower level students. There are many options for using the topic lists. Suggestions include:

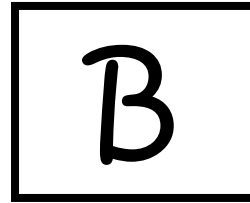
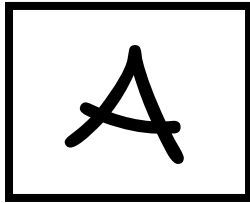
1. Pick a new letter of the alphabet for each day’s writing.
2. Let the students choose a letter.
3. Let the students choose from several topic choices.
4. Start at the beginning.
5. Highlight the topics appropriate for your level.
6. Make a random choice.

How to Use the Picture Cards

This book contains five sets of picture cards with twenty cards in each set. For even more cards, use the blank forms to draw your own pictures, or use pictures from magazines. Copy the cards onto colored cardstock, laminate them, and cut them apart. (Permission is granted to copy these pages for individual classroom use only.) Copying each set of twenty cards on a different color will make it easier to sort out the sets. Working independently or in small groups, students use the picture cards to create original stories. Each set of cards provides an infinite number of story possibilities. Because the pictures are very basic, students must create their own details. Students write numbers, notes, or ideas on the lined part of the cards with fine-point overhead pens or dry-erase pens; then they develop their stories on paper. Suggestions for use:

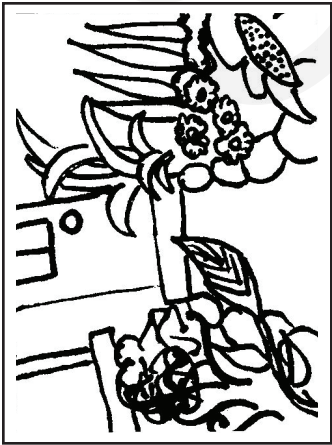
1. Give each student or group a set of cards. Have them shuffle the cards. They must write a story using the cards in the order they fall.
2. Give each student or group a set of cards. Have them sequence the cards themselves and write a story.
3. Have each student or group draw a certain number of cards. Students may sequence the cards or draw them at random and write a story.
4. Give each student or group a few cards from each set. Have them sequence the cards or draw them at random and write a story.
5. Distribute one card to each student. Go around the room and have each student use his or her card to contribute to one class story.

However you decide to use the lists and the cards, we hope this book, *Writing Starts: Writing Ideas and Story Starters from A to Z*, will be helpful to you and your students.

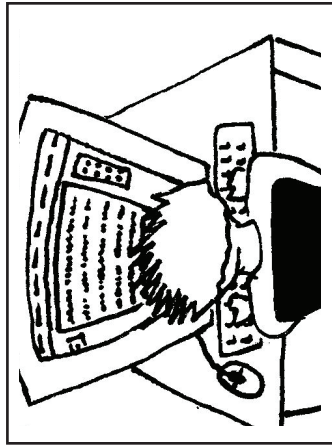


1. The animal I would like to be is ...
2. My greatest adventure
3. The time I had an accident
4. Was it really an accident?
5. My day at the amusement park
6. I really appreciated when...
7. My favorite animal
8. I am glad to be an American because...
9. A story from an animal's point of view
10. An amusement park adventure
11. I appreciate my _____ because...
12. My best accomplishment
13. I found a magic acorn.
14. My favorite activity
15. The best advertisement ever
16. I was adventurous when...
17. My trip on an airplane
18. My day as an ant
19. When I am alone, I like to...
20. I was the most angry ever when...
21. My life as an amoeba
22. My famous ancestor
23. I apologized when...
24. I needed to change my attitude when...
25. Use adjectives to describe something.
26. How to make an apple pie
27. Make a story using antonyms.
28. What I like about America
29. I always _____.
30. The athlete I admire most
31. I am afraid of...
32. Explain an analogy.
33. An alarm clock
34. Ah-choo!
35. AWOL
36. What does ageless mean?
37. ASAP
38. _____
39. _____

1. One day I did everything backward.
2. The best baseball game I ever played
3. The best baseball game I ever watched
4. My best basketball game
5. My bedtime routine
6. I don't like to go to bed.
7. I am on my best behavior when...
8. I was on my worst behavior when...
9. Before I can _____, I must...
10. My best birthday
11. My worst birthday
12. My body part I would like to change
13. The time I tried to bluff
14. My favorite book
15. I would like to build...
16. The best thing I ever built with blocks
17. How to do ballet in snow/rain boots
18. I like big bridges.
19. I don't like big bridges.
20. My broken bone story
21. My best day ever
22. I was an innocent bystander when...
23. A business I would like to start
24. The best thing about me is...
25. My favorite breakfast
26. Batter up
27. A day at the beach
28. A broken promise
29. How I learned to ride a bike
30. Busy as a bee
31. Just because
32. I always feel better when...
33. I get butterflies in my stomach when...
34. I believe in...
35. _____
36. _____



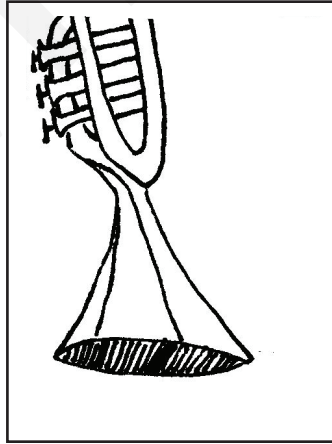
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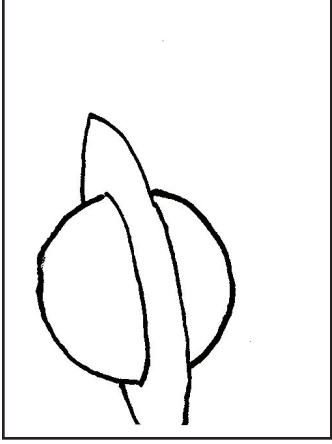
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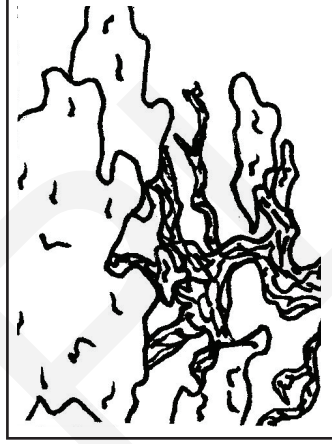
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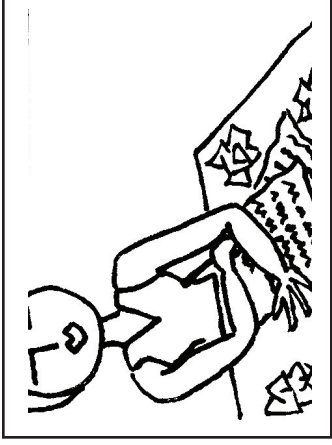
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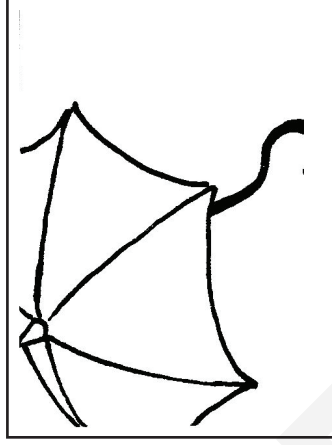
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