



Fun Ways
to inspire
Creative Writing
(without having to work too hard!)

Hello!



Carrie Mumaw

Teacher. Parent. Writing Enthusiast. Pinterest Prowler.
Wishes there were more hours every day to get things done.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a dark grey button-down shirt, is sitting at a wooden desk and writing in a notebook with a pencil. The background is bright yellow with various colorful circles (blue, green, orange, pink) and a thought bubble graphic. A large pink circle with a dashed border contains the text.

Kids
Love to
write
Stories!



Personal Narratives

Write Stories that you know!

- ◎ Write about your experiences
- ◎ Gather family stories and memories in an anthology
 - Try collecting around a common emotion or theme:
 - Embarrassing moments
 - Biggest accomplishments
 - Facing a fear
 - Injuries

Stories are like puzzles...

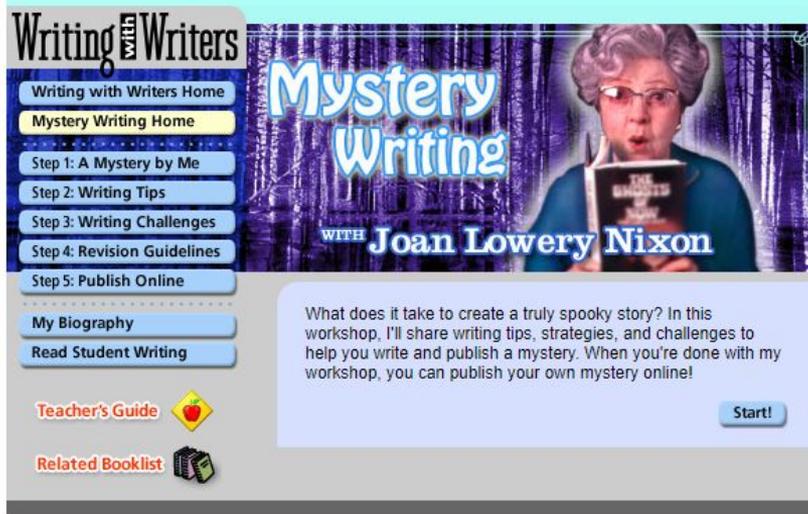


Piece them together one idea at a time.

Explore different genres



<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/mystery/index.htm>

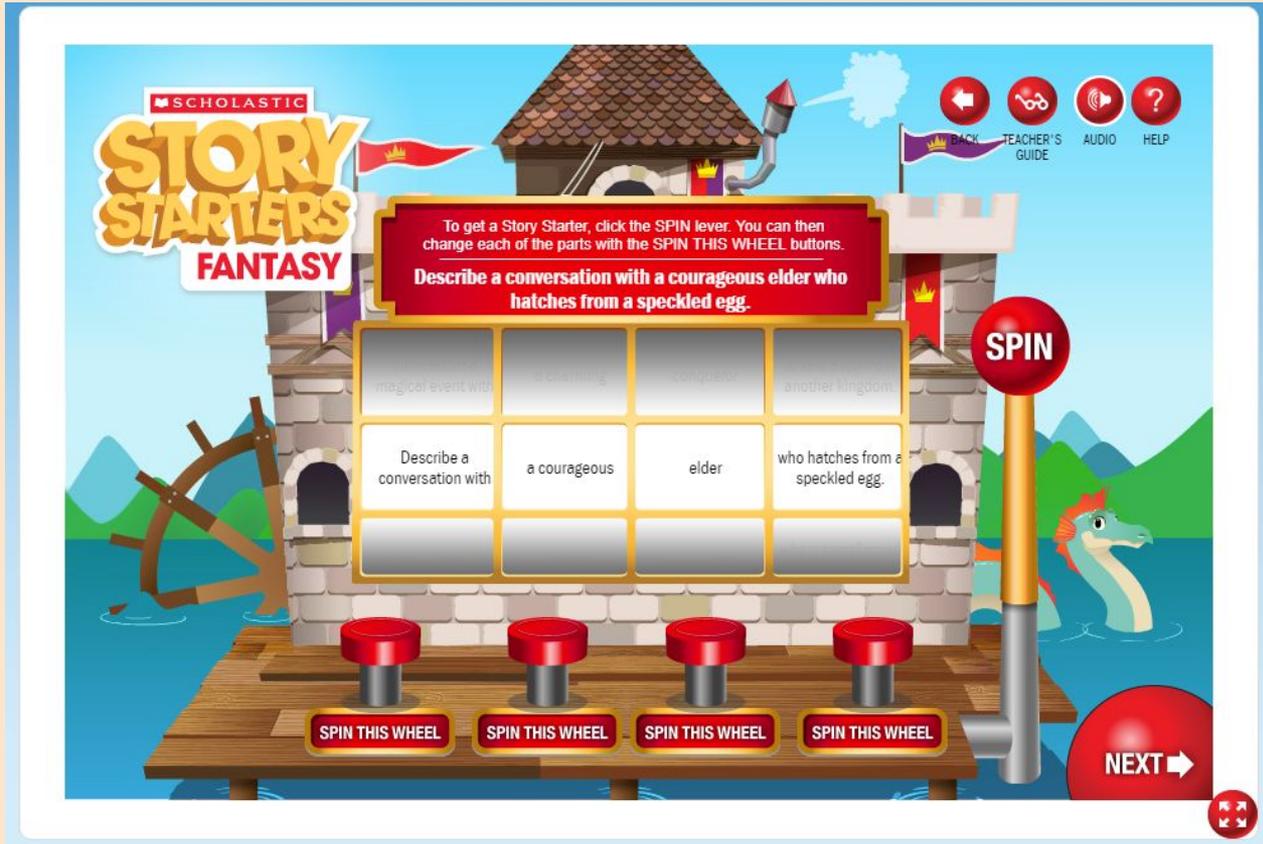


The screenshot shows a website interface for 'Writing with Writers'. On the left is a navigation menu with buttons for 'Writing with Writers Home', 'Mystery Writing Home', 'Step 1: A Mystery by Me', 'Step 2: Writing Tips', 'Step 3: Writing Challenges', 'Step 4: Revision Guidelines', 'Step 5: Publish Online', 'My Biography', and 'Read Student Writing'. Below the menu are links for 'Teacher's Guide' (with an apple icon) and 'Related Booklist' (with a stack of books icon). The main content area features a large image of author Joan Lowery Nixon holding a book, with the text 'Mystery Writing WITH Joan Lowery Nixon'. Below the image is a text box that reads: 'What does it take to create a truly spooky story? In this workshop, I'll share writing tips, strategies, and challenges to help you write and publish a mystery. When you're done with my workshop, you can publish your own mystery online!' and a 'Start!' button.

Writing with Writers

Choose from favorite authors who guide you through process of writing different genres.

Random Idea Generators



<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/story-starters/>

(If having trouble, right click on the genre you want and then open it in a new tab.)

Simpler activities for K-2

http://writingfix.com/traits_primary.htm#forkids

- Serendipitous Setting Descriptions
- Serendipitous Story Themes
- Serendipitous Dialogue Scenes
- Serendipitous Similes
- Serendipitous Personifications
- Serendipitous Oxymorons
- Serendipitous Poetic Phrases



WritingFix

inspiration is but a click away

Lots of prompt ideas to spark writing ideas!

<http://writingfix.com/right-brain.htm>

<http://writingfix.com/left-brain.htm>

List of excellent mentor texts to inspire!

<http://writingfix.com/about-us/books.htm>

A SERENDIPITY PROMPT!

Press the three buttons until you create an idea for a setting/place you'd be willing to write about!

"A fragile..."

"...bridge..."

"...between the two rivers..."

PRESS: Adjective

PRESS: Place

PRESS: Phrase

Our Interactive Plot-Building Game:

Each time you click all three buttons, ask, "Which type of conflict would this one be? Does this sound like an original story you might like to explore in your writer's notebook, then in a longer piece of writing?"

Person against person, person against setting, or person against self?

"a crowded
gymnasium"

"a student"

"your character can't
stop sneezing"

PRESS: Setting

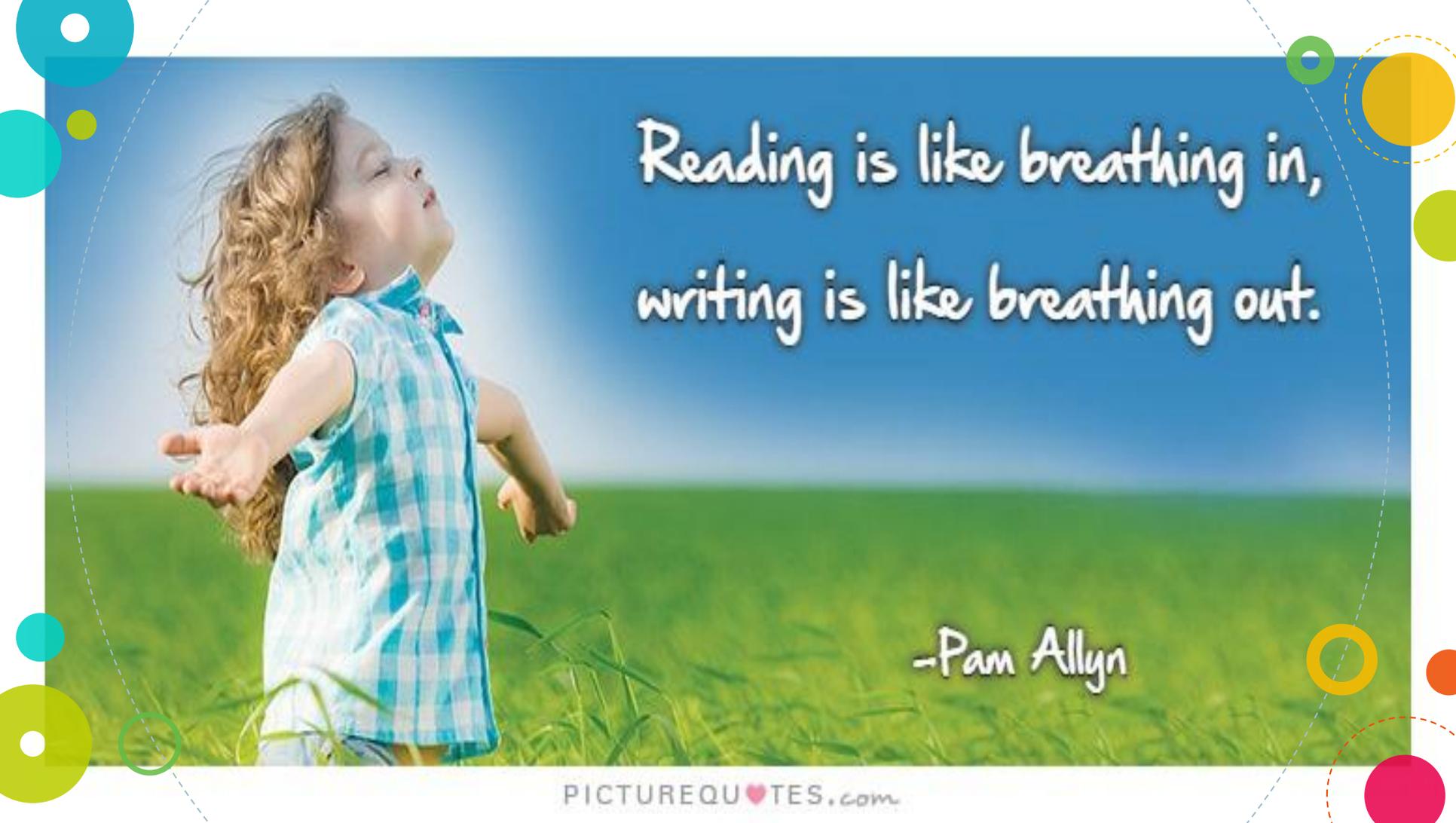
PRESS: Character

PRESS: Conflict

Inspiration from Contests

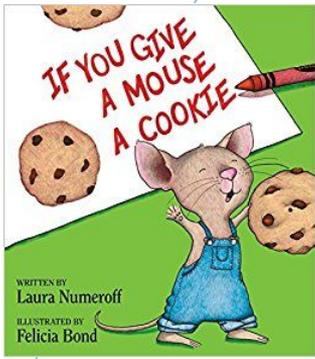
<https://clubs.scholastic.com/contests-and-programs.html>





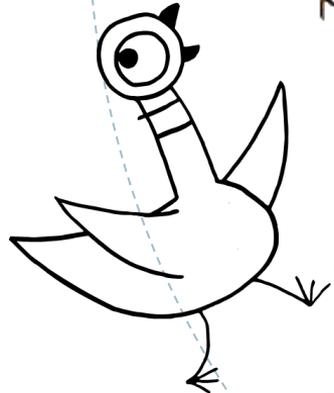
Reading is like breathing in,
writing is like breathing out.

-Pam Allyn

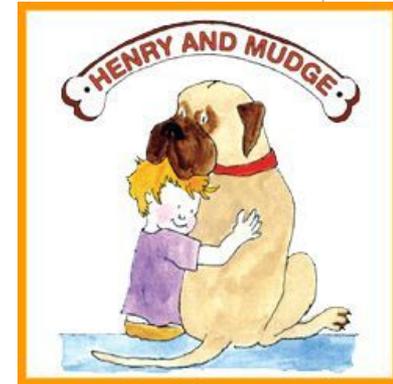


Use favorite Stories and Characters as Inspiration

- Rewrite endings to stories
- Write a sequel
- Put familiar characters in a new setting and create an adventure
- Create your own characters and stories that mimic an author's style



The Berenstain Bears®





children are great
imitators. so give
them something
great to imitate.

WWW.VERYBESTQUOTES.COM

FRESH FORMATS FOR STORIES

Diary Style

- First person allows special personality and insight to come through.

Circle Stories

- End the story right where you start
- ex) *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*

Graphic Novel

- Focus on main events to show action.
- Great practice for using meaningful dialogue.
- Art lover's favorite

Scavenger Hunts

- Give clues to lead to certain locations.

Poems

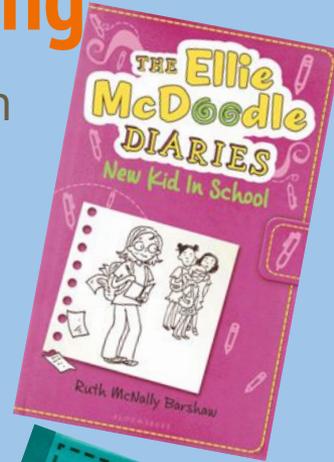
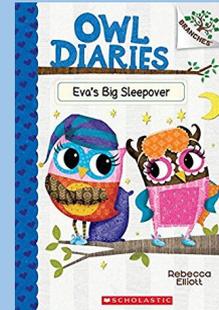
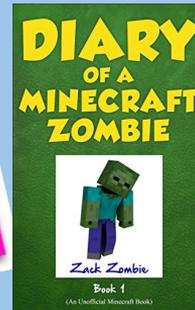
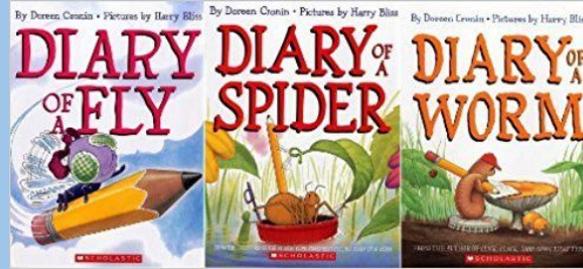
- Shorter snippets of events can be easier than telling every detail.

Slide Show

- Kids are so tech savvy these days!
- Fun to add images

Try Diary-Style Writing

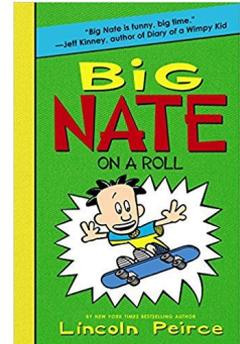
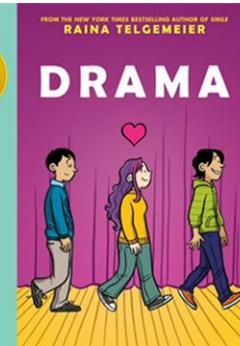
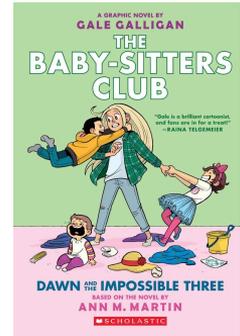
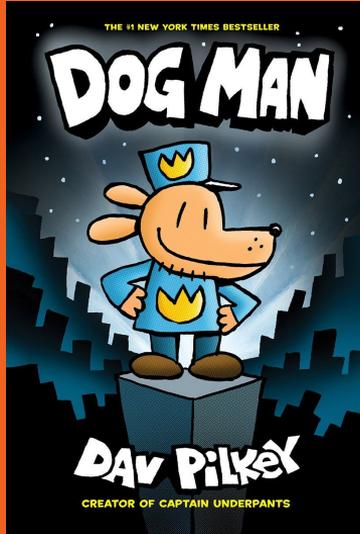
First person allows expression of personality and character development.



Try Graphic Novels

(Comic-style chapter books!)

Such a fresh, fun genre!



Create Your Own Graphic Novels Online

Money Man:



Online Comic Creators:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/student-interactives/comic-creator-30021.html>

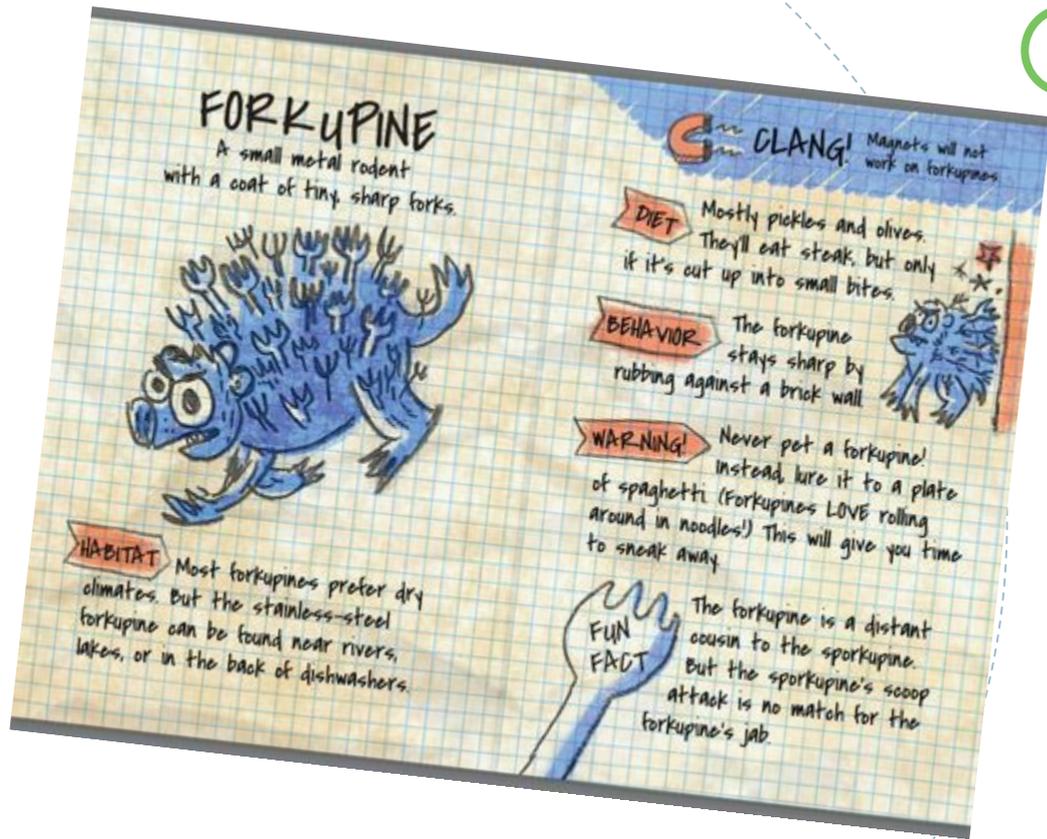
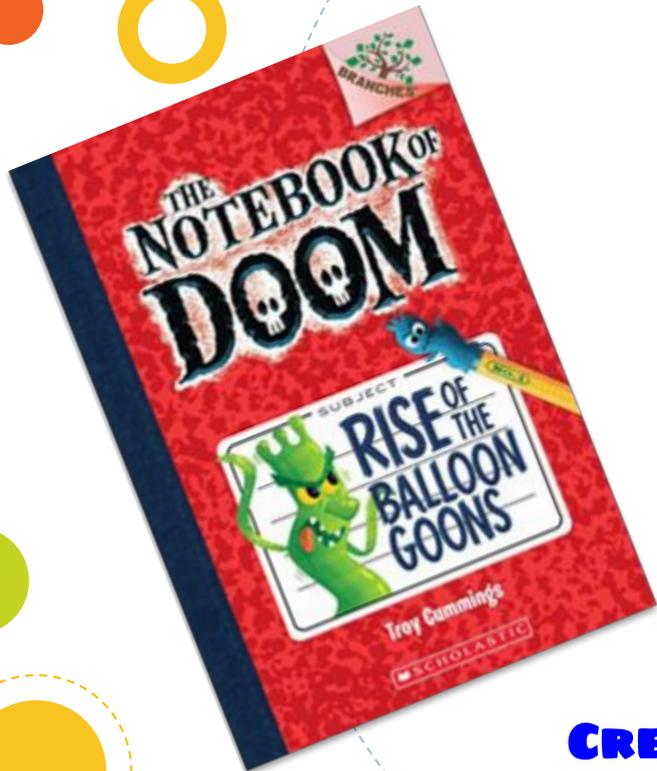
<http://pbskids.org/arthur/games/comiccreator/>



Comics!

Action stories
inspired by
photos of play

[https://www.fotojet.com/apps/
?entry=collage](https://www.fotojet.com/apps/?entry=collage)

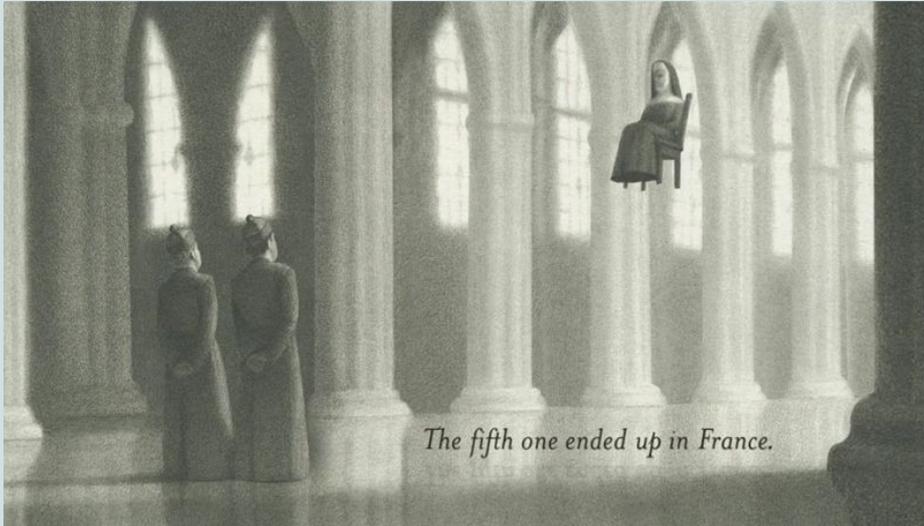


CREATE YOUR OWN MONSTER!

<http://www.scholastic.com/branches/pdf/downloadables/Notebook-of-Doom-Make-a-Monster-Worksheet.pdf>

Chris Van Allsburg

Master of Fantasy!



The fifth one ended up in France.

The Mysteries of Harris Burdick

Jumanji

Zathura

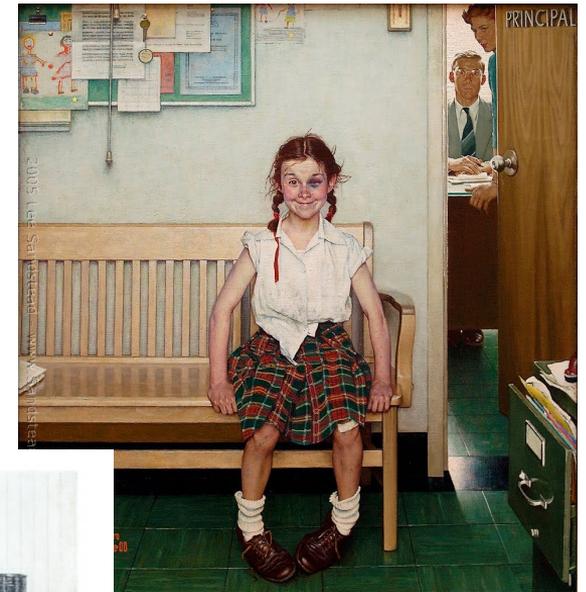
Polar Express



**A STRANGE
DAY IN JULY**

*He threw with all his
might, but the stone
came skipping back.*

Get Inspired by Art



Norman Rockwell
Museum trips
Online photos
Art calendars

Go beyond stories...



What else is there...?

Mad Libs

<http://www.madlibs.com/>

Books, printables, an app!

Wacky Web Tales (fill in online)

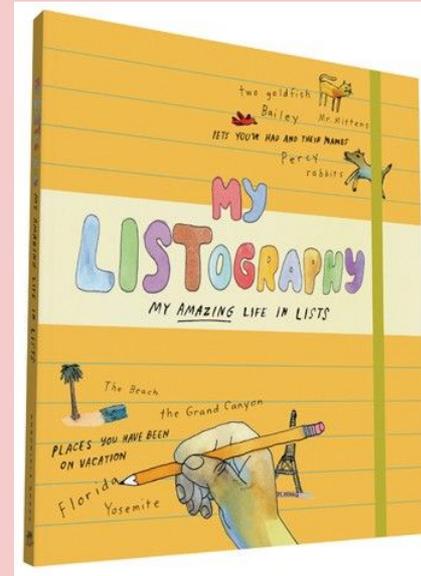
<https://www.eduplace.com/tales/>

- Write your own stories.
- Take out words.
- Give clues for others to fill in.



MAD LIBS
VACATIONS

A vacation is when you take a trip to some _____ place
ADJECTIVE
with your _____ family. Usually you go to some place
ADJECTIVE
that is near a/an _____ or up on a/an _____.
NOUN NOUN
A good vacation place is one where you can ride _____
PLURAL NOUN
or play _____ or go hunting for _____. I like
GAME PLURAL NOUN
to spend my time _____ or _____.
VERB ENDING IN "ING" VERB ENDING IN "ING"

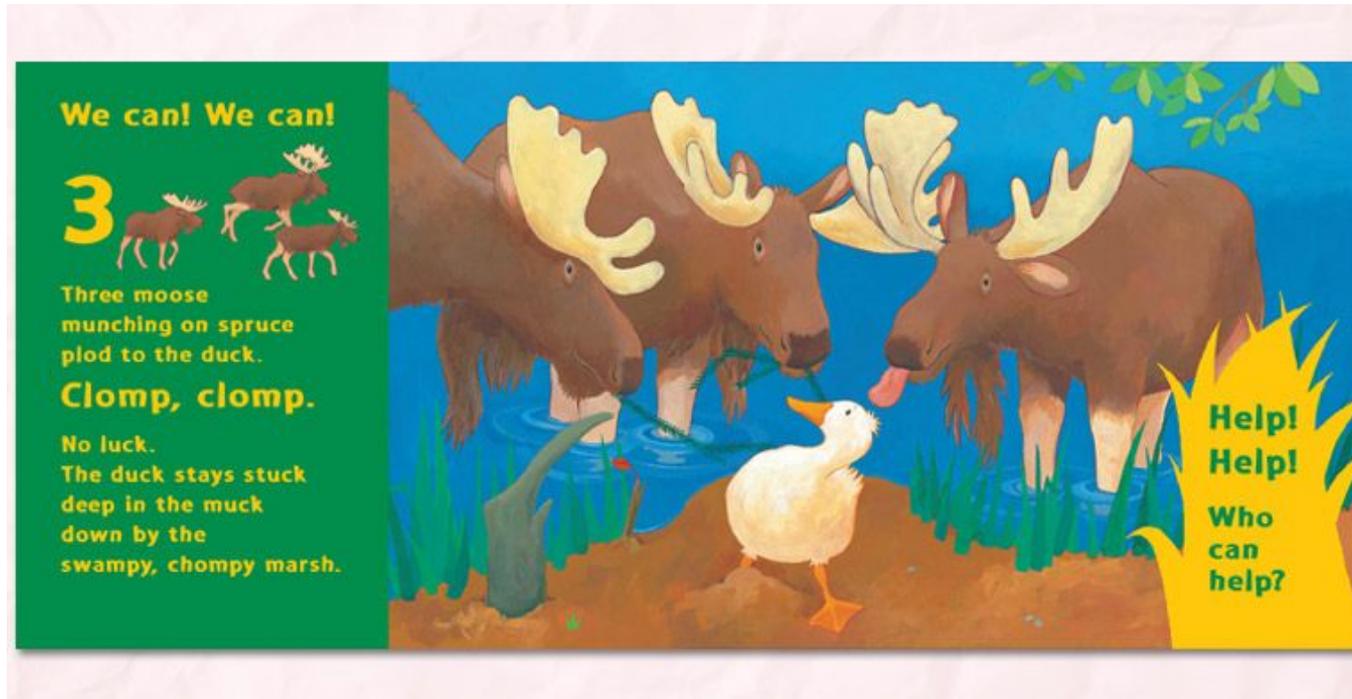


Lists

My Listography by Lisa Nola

http://writingfix.com/left_brain/PersonalLists1.htm

ABC and 1, 2, 3 books



Fun with Figurative Language

Write down the name of an ...

... animal
... occupation
... appliance

I am like a _____ because _____
As a _____, I am like a _____ because ..



Alliteration

Tongue twisters

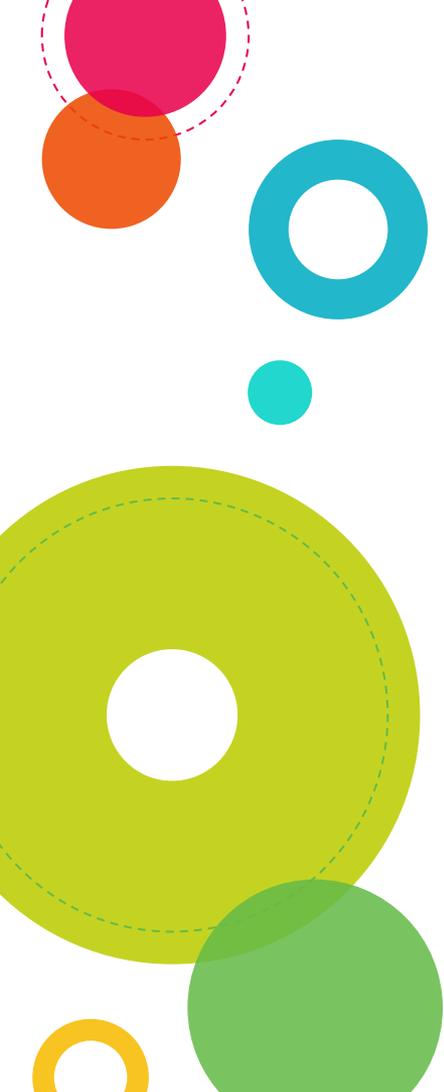
Animalia by Graeme Base



No pencils needed?

**"Write in the air"
to brainstorm ideas**





Games to Play in the Car

Alliteration/Tongue Twisters

Choose a letter and make a sentence all starting with that same sound.

Collaborative Stories

Each person adds a line or event to the story and passes to the next person.

Top That!

The funniest thing I can imagine is...
It'd be embarrassing if...

Would You Rather...?

The books and games can spark great discussions, but then pose your own scenarios!

I am like...

Compare yourself to a person or object and explain the similarities.

What if...?

Put all those natural kid questions to work for you! Why, Mom?

If you want to be really sneaky, record your stories with your phone and then listen to them later! (Or type them up to show the kids what you have “written.”)

Turn Complaining into Creativity

**I'M
STARVING!!**



I'm as hungry
as a giant
grizzly bear just
coming out of
hibernation.

**YOU'RE
MEAN!!!**



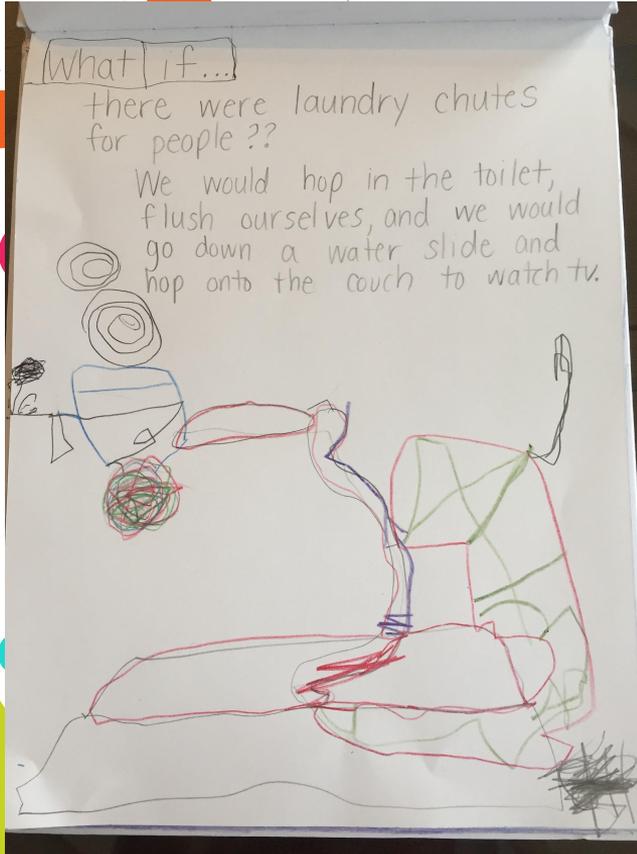
You are meaner
than Lex
Luthor using
kryptonite on
Superman!

**THIS IS
BORING...**

This is so
boring it's
worse than
watching a
sloth race a
turtle!



What If...?



https://us3.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=9472abb9450f444d43670a5fb&id=ba7a18bb98&mc_cid=7ac6c1ecd7&mc_eid=55670abff

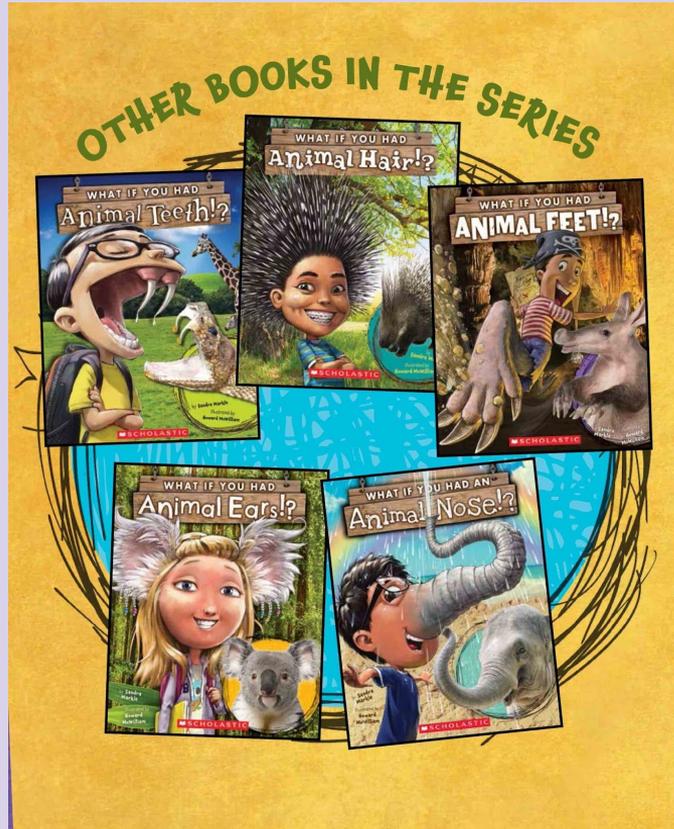
What if...? prompts

<http://canteach.ca/elementary/prompts.html>

What if . . . ? books by Sandra Markle

If I had teeth like a shark,
I would . . .

If I were nocturnal like
an owl, I would . . .

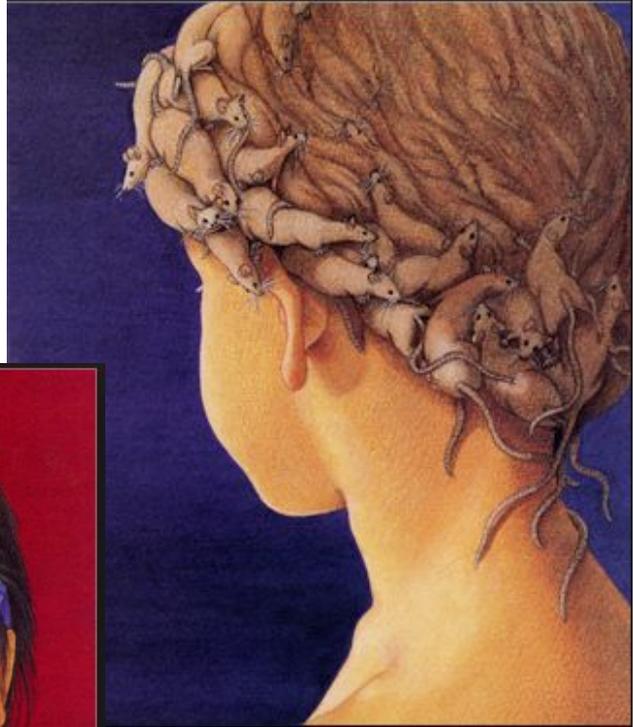
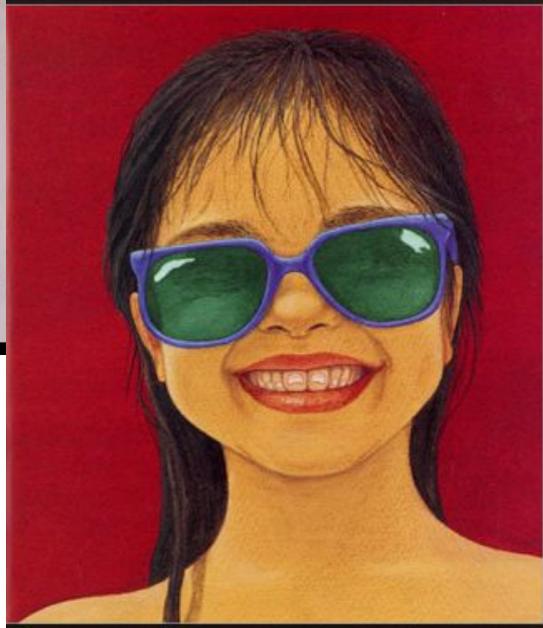


If my hair was
spotted like the fur
on a cheetah, I
would . . .

If my tongue was long and
strong like a giraffe's, I could . . .

If

by
Sarah Perry

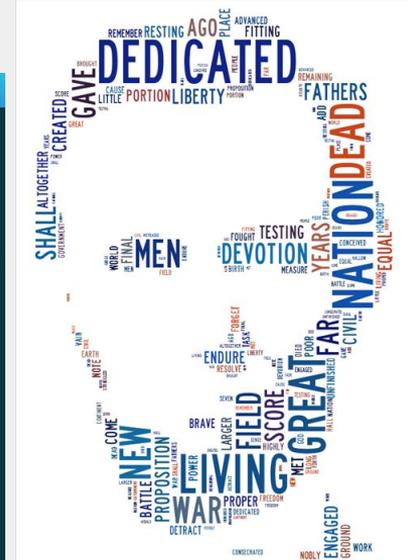
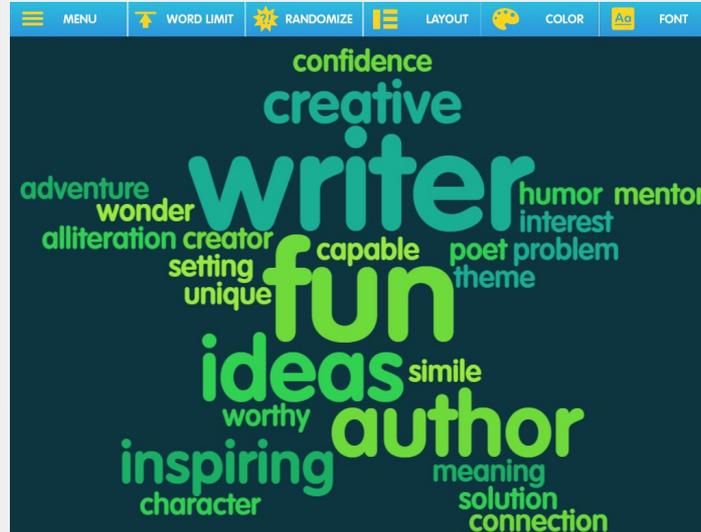


Word Clouds

Choose a favorite topic and brainstorm ideas.

© <https://www.wordclouds.com/>

© http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm



The desire
to write
grows with
writing.

-Desiderius Erasmus

Thanks!

Hope you have fun and get creative!



Any questions?

You can reach me at cmumaw@phm.k12.in.us.