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#1492. Journal Writing Ideas

Reading/Writing, level: Elementary

Posted Wed Jan 5 18:41:30 PST 2000 by Linda Gallipoli (lfgallipoli@yahoo.com).

Randall Carter School, Wayne, NJ

Materials Required: pencil, paper, writing ideas list

Activity Time: 30 minutes

Concepts Taught: Story Starters, writing

Print the following list out for each student. Introduce it as a resource they can use if they can't come up with a writing topic during journal time or at the writing center. Discuss some of the topics, and demonstrate to the class how to write a story using one of the ideas below as a springboard.

WRITING IDEAS

About Yourself

- Have you wondered about _____...?
- Let me tell you about _____...
- Have you ever wondered why...?
- I like to _____ for many reasons.
- I know how to _____. First...
- I think _____ was _____ for many reasons.
- I just learned facts about...
- Let me tell you about...
- It's fun to _____. First you...
- Many changes happen to _____ as they grow.
- My dream school
- My dream teacher
- What I would like to change about myself.
- My idea of hard work.
- What I REALLY enjoy doing.
- My worst fear is...
- A miserable feeling is when...
- What happened on my way home from school
- What happened on my way to school
- What I did last night (or last weekend)
- What I am doing tonight (or next weekend)
- What really bothers me

- What really excites me
- What really scares me
- What really surprises me
- The funniest thing I ever saw was...
- The scariest thing I ever saw was...
- My favorite movie is _____ ...explain
- My favorite tv program is _____ ...explain
- My favorite subject is _____ ...explain
- My least favorite subject is _____ ...explain
- My recipe for goonacke (make up a word)
- When my friend moved away
- I really hate it when...
- I really wonder about...
- I remember when I was _____ years old and...
- I remember when I first ate _____ and...
- I remember when I first met _____ and...
- If I could fly I would...
- If I could chose a time to live it would be _____ ...explain.
- When I'm old...
- Fifteen things I want to do in my lifetime
- Love is...
- Friendship is...
- Being happy is...
- When I get out of school...
- My best birthday
- My most embarrassing moment
- My favorite trip
- When I grow up
- In 20 years, I will be...
- I was most angry when...
- My worst mistake was...
- My safe place
- Three items I would place in a time capsule. Why?
- I don't leave home without _____ because...

FANTASY

- I woke up this morning the size of a blueberry (feeling like a blueberry, looking like a blueberry, etc.)
- I woke up one morning and everything was blue (missing, tiny, different, etc.)
- My pet, the shark (snake, flamingo, bear, etc.)
- My dog thinks he is president
- My pet dinosaur (iguana, kangaroo)
- My friend the robot
- My talking pen
- My magic carpet
- Suddenly everyone forgot who I was
- The day the food on my plate began to move
- The day I became Waldo (or some weird person, famous person, etc)
- The day I went bungee jumping (sky diving...)
- The day I babysat a monkey

- The day I became a cartoon character
- The day I caught a porcupine
- The day I became a dentist, (rock climber, astronaut, singer, artist)
- The day I won power
- The day I met the president
- The day the teacher was gone and they asked me to be the substitute!
- The day my pet fish began to sing (talk, do tricks, etc.)
- The day it snowed twenty feet
- The day the sun grew
- The day the sandwich turned into a _____?
- The night the Martians landed
- The night before Halloween
- The night I saw the Tooth Fairy
- The night I saw a monster
- The night the lights went out
- The year it wouldn't stop raining (snowing)
- The crazy day started when I was on my way to school... (downtown, to Grandma's)
- A day in the White House
- The great flood (earthquake, tornado, etc.)
- Suddenly my submarine sprang a leak
- The trap door in my closet
- While I was walking home from school...
- I would use a magic wand to...
- In the year 2099...
- On planet Zeon...
- I heard a noise under my bed
- There was a loud knock at the door
- As I was walking on the beach...

If I . . .

- If I could have a worm farm...
- If I could move anywhere in the U.S. (world, state, etc)...
- If I could apologize to one person...
- If I could make all the rules...
- If I could speak to animals...
- If I could climb a rainbow...
- If I could change shape...
- If I could meet anyone in the world...
- If I could ride on the Magic School Bus...
- If I had a brontosaurus...
- If I had 3 wishes, I would wish for...
- If I had \$1,000,000...
- If I had a twin...
- If I had an airplane
- If I were stranded alone on an island (in an elevator, etc)...
- If I were trapped in an elevator...
- If I were in a blizzard...
- If I were stranded in the woods...
- If I were one inch tall...
- If I were invisible...

- If I were the teacher...
- If I were principal...
- If I were a fence post...
- If I were boiling...
- If I were an animal, I would be...
- If I were a rock...
- If I were a bird...
- If I were a pencil...
- If I were a movie star...
- If I lived in a castle...
- If I lived in a cave...
- If I lived in a tree...
- If I lived in a spaceship...
- If I lived underwater...
- If I lived on a mountain...
- If I won the lottery
- If I got to be captain of a boat

Things

- Green eggs and ham
- Jellybeans
- Worms
- Shoes
- Aliens
- Pets
- Good luck charms
- Haunted houses
- Clowns
- Chores
- Homework
- Sports
- Dancing
- Flying
- Fishing
- Cooking
- Playing
- How to make _____

People

- George Washington
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Abe Lincoln
- Columbus
- Johnny Appleseed
- Helen Keller
- Benjamin Franklin
- Betsy Ross
- Rosa Parks
- Sally Ride
- The Boxcar Children

- Arthur
- Clifford
- Curious George
- Junie B. Jones
- Nate the Great
- Doctors
- Teachers
- Scientists
- Lawyers
- Mechanics
- Artists
- Singers
- Writers
- Dancers
- Dentists
- Vets
- Pharmacists
- Mail Carriers
- Fire Fighters
- Police Officers
- Ambulance Squad Members
- Secretaries
- Computer Programmers
- Actors
- Athletes
- News Anchors
- Jewelers

Using Your Imagination

- Pretend you are a raindrop. Where would you land and what would happen along the way?
- Write a conversation that a shoe might have with a sock. (circle/square)
- If you and your best friend could have a free limo for 24 hours, where would you go and what would you do?
- What is a best friend?
- You could to travel to any city or country in the world.
Where would you go and why?
- Describe a dream that you had. Give as many details as possible.
- You have an extra \$100,000 to give away, and you cannot spend it on yourself. What would you do with the money?
- If you were an insect, what kind would you be and why?
- Your mother has just returned from a distant planet and brought you back an alien pet- describe it in detail.
- Design your dream house (school, room, classroom, playground etc)
- Write a letter to me and tell me what you'd like to learn this year.
- Write the direction from your house to school.
- Write a description of your favorite toy, room in your house, favorite relative, etc.
- If the items in your lunch box could talk, what would they say?
- Write 3 questions you would like to ask your teacher.
- Write a story called "Meet My _____"

- What is your favorite food and how do you make it?
- List all the reasons why people need to know how to read.
- What do you think would happen if an elephant walked into the schoolyard?
- What color do you think love is? Explain your answer.
- What color do you think hate is? Explain your answer.
- How do you think rain sounds when it falls?
- How does happiness feel?

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