



The Mini Page

Next Week:
The U.S.
Marine Band

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Founded by Betty Debnam

What Will You Write About?

Along with reading new books, you could also *write* your own book this summer!

All it takes is a quiet place, ideas, paper and pencil or a computer. Why not become an author? Try to write several times a week. Writing is like playing ball or jumping rope: You get better the more you practice.

Step 1: Think

Think about what you are going to write about. You can do this almost anywhere. Some kids keep their ideas in a notebook so that when they have time to write, they can get started more easily.



Try using a web diagram to organize your thoughts.

Step 2: Organize

Organize your ideas. Make a list, a chart, an outline or a web diagram.

Have you learned about webbing in school? It's a way to get your ideas out of your mind and onto paper.



Mini Fact:

Experts say writing during the summer will help you jump back into school more easily in the fall.

The main topic or idea goes in a circle in the middle. The parts of the idea branch out from the main circle. The details branch off next.

Step 3: Write

Write your story, poem or information. Right now the most important thing is to get your ideas down.

These first attempts are called "working copy" or "drafts."



Step 4: Read and rewrite

Read your draft to yourself several times. Think about how you could improve it. Are there details you could add that would make it more interesting? Is there anything in the draft that is confusing?

Read your draft aloud. Making changes is hard, but it makes your writing better.

Step 5: Edit

When you are satisfied with your draft, edit it. That means you check to make sure you have the correct spelling and punctuation. It's OK to get help with this. Even the best writers get help from editors.

Step 6: Publish

Think about how you could publish your writing. You could rewrite it in your best handwriting or type it on a computer. You can make a book or write a script for a movie or play. You might add pictures or decorations.

Step 7: Share

Share your finished writing with your friends and family. They will be so proud to know an author!

If you'd like to spread your story further, talk to the staff of the school newspaper to find out if they'll publish it. A community newspaper or magazine might be interested in it, too.

Your writing also makes a great gift for family members and friends.

Get started

The time to start is *now!* Make a list of subjects you'd like to write about. We'll get you started with a few ideas.

- | | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Pets | Historical figures |
| Vacations | Outer space |
| Sports | Wild animals |

Resources



On the Web:

- storyjumper.com

At the library:

- "The Ultimate Writing Prompt Book for Kids Ages 8-12" by Eleanor Thompson

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of summer writing are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

- AUTHOR, COMPUTER, COPY, DIAGRAM, DRAFT, EDIT, IDEAS, IMPROVE, NOTEBOOK, ORGANIZE, PRACTICE, PUBLISH, READING, SUBJECT, SUMMER, THINK, TOPIC, WEB, WRITING.

S Q N L T T C E J B U S S Z D
U I M P R O V E A V A A U F L
M W Z J Y P O C R C K I E A P
M A R G A I D D E O O N D U R
E Z I N A G R O A M O I I T A
R H S I L B U P D P B A T H C
S N I T S A E D I U E G F O T
D Y C I P O T G N T T R X R I
Q B M R B B E W G E O A Z X C
Y O B W T F A R D R N M B C E



Mini Jokes



Arthur: What does a cat have that no other animal has?

Anna: Kittens!

Alice: What is green and likes to peck at trees?

Albert: Woody Woodpickle!

Eco Note



Winters are becoming shorter in about 80% of major U.S. cities, according to new data from the research group Climate Central. Despite this winter's brutal cold and lingering snowcover, the analysis of 195 cities found that winter seasons today average about nine days shorter than during the 1970-1997 period as temperatures rise nationwide. Researchers defined winter as the coldest 90-day stretch of the year and found that winterlike temperatures now tend to arrive later and disappear earlier than in the late 20th century. Scientists say the warming trend is altering ecosystems, water supplies and winter recreation industries.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your local newspaper for ideas of topics to write about.

Cook's Corner

Chicken Strips With Orange Marmalade Ketchup

You'll need:

- Cooking spray
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch-thick strips
- salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup ketchup

- 1/2 cup orange marmalade
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon liquid smoke



What to do:

1. Coat a stovetop grill pan or griddle with cooking spray and preheat over medium-high heat. Season chicken strips with salt and pepper.
2. Add strips to hot pan and cook for 3 to 5 minutes, turning frequently, until golden brown and cooked through.
3. In a small saucepan, combine other ingredients. Mix well and bring to a simmer, then decrease heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Serve strips with dunking sauce on the side.

Adapted from "The Robin Takes 5 Cookbook for Busy Families" with permission from Andrews McMeel Publishing (andrewsmcmeel.com).

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. take without asking (5) _____
2. Italian "pie" (6) _____
3. main door (8) _____
4. amazing (10) _____
5. find for the first time (8) _____
6. actor Asher (5) _____
7. like night and day (9) _____

ANCE	BLE	EL	EAL
ZZA	DISC	ANG	OSI
REDI	ST	TES	INC
OPP	ENTR	PI	OVER



Answers: steal, pizza, entrance, incredible, discover, Angel, opposites.

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