

Free Choice Elementary Writing Packet

During the last learning period, you may want to go to the HCS on-line web site and revisit earlier writing packets. There are probably writing activities that weren't completed or perhaps your student wants to reuse one of the previous graphic organizers.

If you are searching for some fresh ideas, this packet includes suggestions for poetry websites to visit. It also has information on how to write a summary and a response to literature.

I suggest that you choose one writing activity to complete each week. Don't try to complete the entire activity in one day. **Here is a suggested schedule:**

Day 1: Decide what type of writing will be done. Explain that type of writing using the ideas in this packet. Be sure to read the samples. Read a book or poem together. Start writing on a blank paper.

Day 2: Review what was taught yesterday.
Finish the rough draft.

Day 3: Use an edit checklist to help add details and fix mistakes.

Day 4: Write or type a final copy. Read the paper to someone.

***Most of all remember to HAVE FUN writing!**

Edit Checklist for Writing a Summary

Write a + when you've done each one to your rough draft. Write or type your final copy. Write neatly.

- wrote my name and the date
- centered my title on the top line
- indented paragraphs
- first sentence tells title & author
- wrote main idea & only a few detail sentences
- added describing words
- ideas in order beginning/middle/end
- read out loud: Did it sound right?
- circled & fixed misspelled words
- read/fixed capitals & punctuation
- read my paper to someone

Edit Checklist for Response to Literature

Write a + when you've done each one to your rough draft. Write or type your final copy. Write neatly.

- wrote my name and the date
- centered my title on the top line
- indented paragraphs
- first sentence tells title and author
- wrote a main idea topic sentence
- wrote a few sentences with my personal responses
- added describing words
- read out loud: Did it sound right?
- circled & fixed misspelled words
- read/fixed capitals & punctuation
- read my paper to someone

Cooling Off

On summer days I like to eat
cold watermelon, juicy, sweet,
and feel it dripping on my feet.

Leslie Danford Perkin

Poetry Resources On-Line

Write a Biography Poem

http://printables.scholastic.com/printables/detail/?id=35671&Nty=0&N=fff&Ntk=Printables_SI&query=writing+prompt&N=1204+1212+138+137+105+108+52+47+1231&No=60&Ntt=writing+prompt

Write poetry Using Personification

<http://printables.scholastic.com/printables/detail/?id=31868&ESP=PRT/ib/20090330/acq/PoetryPrintables///PoetryIndex/txtl///>

Write Small Poems

<http://printables.scholastic.com/printables/detail/?id=31910&ESP=PRT/ib/20090330/acq/PoetryPrintables///PoetryIndex/txtl///>

Write Concrete Poems

http://www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/p/poetrytwist.pdf

Poetry Terms

<http://www.scholastic.com/resources/article/whats-in-a-poem>

Read Weather Poems

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/reproducibles/profbooks/weatherpoetry.pdf>

Read Children's Poems on line

<http://www.storyit.com/Classics/JustPoems/index.htm>

Read these Poetry Book Suggestions

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=11672>

Writing a Summary

A **story summary** tells the most important ideas that are in something that you read.

Usually a **story summary** includes:



The **main idea** of the story and

3 or 4 important **supporting details**

Sample Summary: Think about the story *The Three Bears*

The book **The Three Bears** is a story about a family of three bears and a curious girl named **Goldilocks**. *Goldilocks went into the bears' house while they were on a walk in the forest. She tried their food, chairs, and beds. The Bears came home and frightened Goldilocks away.*



Activity: Somebody/Wanted/But/So

Purpose: To construct a graphic organizer to summarize story elements.

1. Have students fold a sheet of paper in fourths and write the following headings on the four sections: *Somebody, Wanted, But, So*.
2. Using a story that the students have read, have students complete their individual charts by writing a statement under each section:
 - Somebody (identify the character)
 - Wanted (describe the character's goal)
 - But (describe a conflict that hinders the character)
 - So (describe the resolution of the conflict)

Remind students to focus on information that is most significant.

*Source: Ellery, V. (2005). *Creating strategic readers*. Newark, Delaware: International Reading Association.

In the story titled _____

Somebody

Wanted

But

So



<http://www.studyzone.org/testprep/ela4/g/persresplitl.cfm>

What does "personal response" mean?

"Personal" means your own private feelings about someone or something.

A "response" is a way of telling something to someone.

So, a "personal response" is telling how you feel about someone or something. It can be done by speaking or writing.

One time you may write about a character that acts just like you! Perhaps you'll predict what will happen next, or how the story will end. You might even write about your favorite part, or your least favorite part, of the story. The possibilities are endless!

Sample Response to Literature:

The book The Three Bears is a story about a family of three bears and a curious girl named Goldilocks. I was surprised that Goldilocks went into their house while they were away. Didn't her parents teach her that this wasn't a good idea? I hope she learned her lesson. I wonder if the bears will lock their door the next time they go for a walk.

After reading a selection, choose one of the following sentence stems to write a response to what you read. Write your response on a separate sheet of writing paper.

After reading _____ by _____,
(the book, story, or poem) and (the author)

I noticed...

A question I have is...

I wonder why...

I began to think of...

It seems like...

I can't really understand...

I'm not sure...

I know the feeling...

I loved the way...

I realized...

I was surprised...

If I were...

I discovered...



Make a Personal Reading Journal out of an old notebook or some paper.

Choose a book to read. Write a personal response. If you're not sure what to write, use the questions above to help you. Read something else and repeat the process.