

# Sharpen Your Pencils!

Writing Center Menu Directions &  
Ideas for the Classroom Teacher



Written by Cherry Carl and Illustrated by Ron Leishman  
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Writing Center Menu Directions &  
Ideas for the Classroom Teacher



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Write a story on the computer or typewriter:

- narratives list for ideas Use computer writing software programs
- Publish something from writer's workshop.
- Look at personal narratives list for ideas



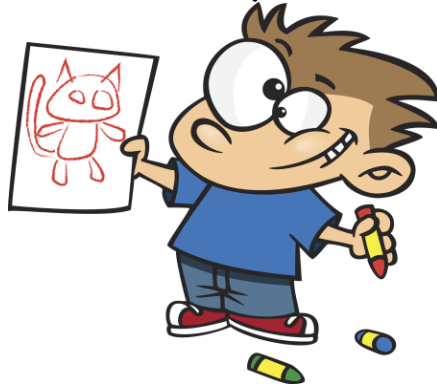
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Retell a story and make pictures to go with it:

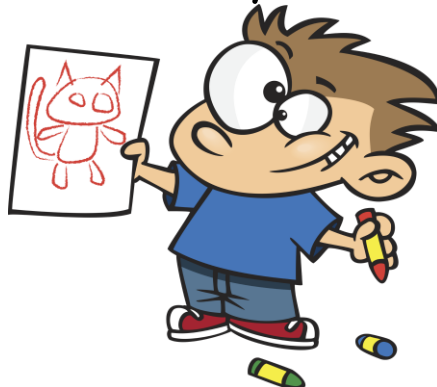
- Retell and illustrate a shared reading book
- Retell a read aloud
- Retell a favorite story from a library book



2

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2

## Make a wanted poster for a book character:

- Include detailed description and disguises
- Include last location
- Reward
- Alias (nickname) and picture

Wanted

For \_\_\_\_\_

May be disguised as \_\_\_\_\_

Alias \_\_\_\_\_

Last Seen \_\_\_\_\_

Reward \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

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3

Write a letter to a character or famous person:

- Write to someone related to a holiday.
- Write to the author of a favorite book.
- Write to a fictional character.
- Write to an important person at school.



4

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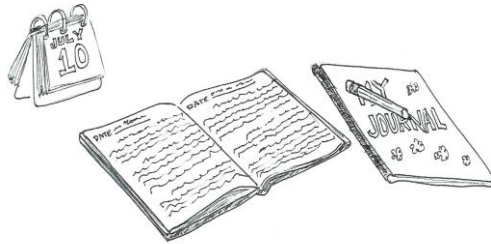
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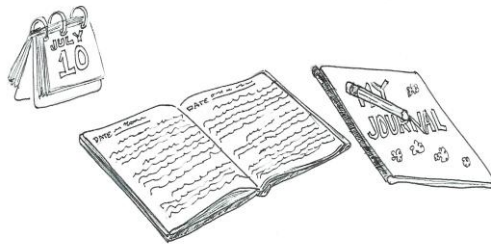
## Write in your journal:

- Self-selected topics
- Teacher assigned topics
- Holiday topic
- Science or social studies topic



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Write an acrostic poem:

- Select a character from your book.
- Write the letters of the name down the side of your paper.
- Write a word or phrase that begins with each letter and describes the character.

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## Make a Sandwich Bag Book:

- Cut cards to fit in zip-closure sandwich bags.  
Draw and write story.
- Place cards in bags back to back in sequence.
- Bind on the left side with yarn.



## Make a Sandwich Bag Book:

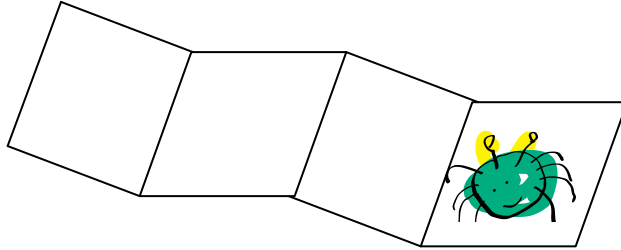
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## Make an accordion book:

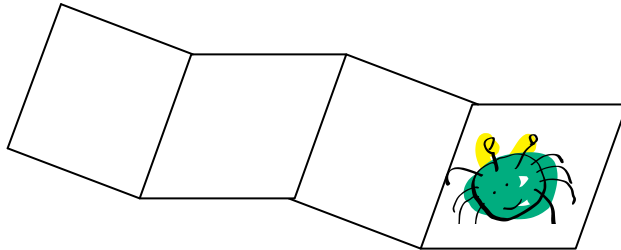
- Fold paper in half (hotdog fold)
- Fold in half 2 more times to create accordion book.
- Write and illustrate first, next, then, finally.



8

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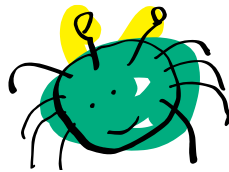


8

Illustrate a page in your journal:

- Choose a favorite journal entry to illustrate for publication and sharing in the author's chair.

I saw a big  
green spider on  
the floor!



9

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9

Write a "tiny tale" and read it to a friend:

- Write a brief retelling or personal narrative on a folded 3 x 5 card.
- Illustrate
- Punch a hole in the corner.
- Tie story to shoestrings.
- Share with a friend.



10

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10

### Write a circle story:

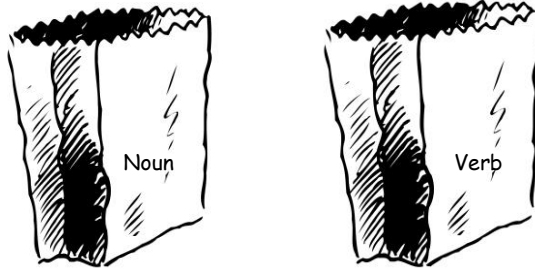
- Remember that circle stories begin and end in the same place.
- Read books by Laura Numeroff (ex. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*) to see the pattern of circle stories.
- Write your own.

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## Write sentences using "Grab Bags."

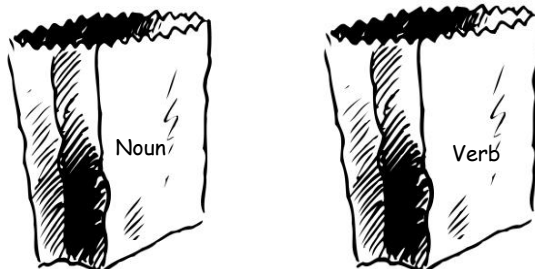
- Label grab bags with parts of speech.
- Collect appropriate word cards for each bag.
- Students "grab" a card from each bag and use those to write a sentence.



12

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12

## Make a "Jiffy Person."

- Make a jiffy person with writing that is autobiographical
- Make a jiffy person with a biographical sketch inside.
- Make sure that your jiffy person reflects the content of the writing.
- See directions and samples.

13

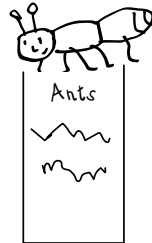
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13

## Make a science bookmark:

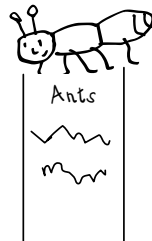
- Pick a science topic and write important facts on a bookmark template.
- Draw a picture of the topic and glue it to the top of your bookmark.
- Share it with a friend.



14

## Make a science bookmark:

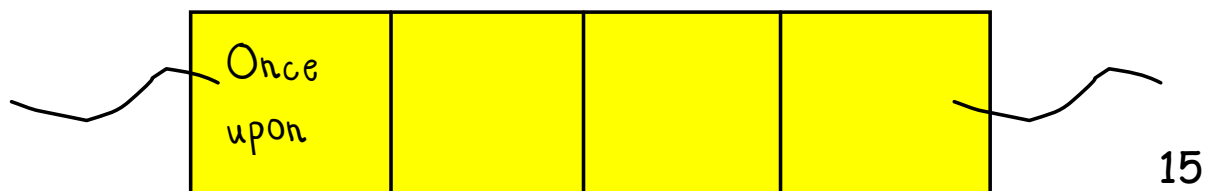
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14

## Make a story sequence belt:

- Divide a sentence strip into story segments.
- Write and illustrate important parts of the story in sequence.
- Punch a hole at either end. Attach yarn ties.
- Make sure that the sentence strip fits!



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